FIRST MAYOR OF MADRAS

Padmabhushan

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar

COMMEMORATION SOUVENIR

OCTOBER - 1994

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ரிப்பன் கட்டட வளாகத்தில்

நிறுவப்பட்டுள்ள சென்னை மாநகருடைய

முதல் மேயரின் திரு உருவச் சிலை

PROLEGOMENA

I deem it a coveted privilege to bring out this Special Souvenir to commemorate the unveiling ceremony of the full-size bronze statue of Rajkumar M.A. Muthiah Chettiar within the Ripon Buildings Complex on 21st October, 1994. It is the famed Dr. Rajah Sir M.A.Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad that is seen to be described as Rajkumar M.A. Muthiah Chettiar in the Corporation records pertaining to the days when the Rajah Saheb was first appointed by the then Government of Madras as a member of the Madras Municipal Council in 1929, then elected President of the Council in 1932 and subsequently installed as Mayor of the Corporation of Madras, on 8th March 1933.

It may be recalled that under the Madras City (Amendment) Act III of 1933 the Municipal Council became the Corporation of Madras and its President was designated as Mayor. Rajkumar M.A. Muthiah Chettiar thus became the First Mayor of Madras when he was barely twenty eight years old - a significant turning point in his career and a happy augury of the resplendent future that lay ahead of him. It is this memorable event that is being now celebrated zestfully, with our most respected Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha herself unveiling the

statue of Rajkumar M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad. It is with a view to marking this grand occasion, that I, as the Chairman of the Celebrations Committee, have ventured to publish this Souvenir. I was particular that this Commemoration Volume should be èminently authentic and interesting with messages of greetings and good wishes as well as reminiscential tributes contributed by some of the dignitaries who were closely associated with Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar during his life time and who are happily in our midst today and who had known him so well as to bear testimony to his extraordinary achievements in varied fields and in varied ways. In spontaneous response to my humble request, valued contributions have come from our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, two former Presidents of India, the Governor of West Bengal, the Hon'ble Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu, some of the former and present judges of the Supreme Court of India and of the High Court of Madras, the former and present Chief Secretaries to the Government of Tamil Nadu, political dignitaries, distinuguished industrialists, vice-chancellors, Tamil savants of repute, legal luminaries, doctors, et al. And these contributions, I dare say, make this Souvenir a splendid banquet for the reader's mind and heart. Need I say that the Celebrations Committee and I are profoundly indebted to the eminent contributors for their gracious gesture. The tributes paid by them to the hallowed memory of the Rajah Saheb are indeed fascinating and illuminating for the reason that they truly regale the reader with pen portraits of the hero of their admiration and appreciation written feelingly with warmth of affection and love and in fulsome praise of his sublime humility and fabulous hospitality and such other noble qualities.

It is commonly believed that riches are apt to betray a man into arrogance, dalliance and indolence. But in the case of Dr. Rajah Sir the vast possessions he inherited from his venerable father, Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar proved a blessings to him because he made them a blessing to others. He was made of such unique calibre that he spurned an easy-going life and accoutred himself for meeting the challenges of a fast-changing world. His illustrious father, whom he revered almost as his visible God and guide and implicitly carried out his wishes with filial affection, was in a way responsible for his being groomed, even when he was in his twenties only, for a dynamic public and social life. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar was an understanding father and Muthiah was an equally understanding son. The former made the latter attune himself to the inevitable changes overtaking the society. Both the father and the son symbolised the quintessence of Tamil Culture in so far as they loved to strive, save and serve and enriched public life with their enlightened zeal for social service of every kind.

More than measuring up to the ardent expectations of his father, Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar distinguished himself as a path-breaker of amazing organising prowess. He ventured into politics with a practical mind and robust common sense which enabled him to cut a dash as a resourceful administrator, adroit leader and high-intentioned statesman. Keeping in perspective what Edmand Burke had said, he strove "not to live by the day and act on expediency", but "act on enduring principles and for immortality".

As the first and youngest Mayor of the Madras Corporation Rajkumar Muthiah Chettiar mastered the details of the City administration and proved his

assiduously cultivated sense of civic responsibility. He addressed himself to his tasks in all seriousnes and made it a point to go round the City as often as he could, and note the condition of its roads and alleys. He thus familiariesed himself with the topography of the City as well as got to know the residents, rich and poor, to whom he made himself accessible. His concern for the welfare of the suffering slum dwellers was human and humane. Let me quote a few observations of his when as Mayor he once addressed a section of the slum population in the City: "Of late the slum problem has become one of the most pressing questions and has been attracting the closest and promptest attention of the Corporation . . . I shall like to emphasise that premature death is caused owing to so many thousands of our fellowmen being condemned to exist in accommodation that in many cases has been declared to be unfit for human habitation. The laws of public health and the commands of humanity and of true statesmanship all proclaim the same need that slums must be either abolished or improved." Words such as these remind us of his determination to devote a good deal of his time, attention and energy for the amelioration of the living conditions of the depressed and neglected classes of the society.

During the two spells of his Mayoralty, Rajkumar Muthiah Chettiar extended educational facilities, augmented accommodation and playground amenities, revived schools that were almost closed, tackled problems of street light, water supply, sewerage disposal and improved the conditions of the slums. Furthermore, he intensified the mid-day meal scheme of the Corporation so as to cover a larger number of beneficiaries by providing increased allocations of funds. A section included in this Souvenir under the rubric

"Dr.Rajah Sir's Mayoralty Days" narrates in greater detail his unforgettable services to the Corporation and the manner in which he unremittingly discharged the onerous duties that devolved on the high office of Mayoralty that he held.

The greatness of the Rajah Saheb has to be estimated not only with reference to the praiseworthy role that he played as the First Mayor of Madras, but also in terms of his outstanding achievements as a judicious banker, ingenious industrialist, educational architect, undaunted champion of the cause of Tamil and Tamil people, and above all as a munificent patron and protector of the Tamil Isai Movement. Whatever post of high distinction he occupied, whether as a Mayor, or as a State Minister, or as a Member of the Constituent Assembly or as a Member of the Defence Council or as the Pro-Chancellor of the prestigious Annamalai University, he exalted it by his genius for imaginative conception, thoughtful planning and skillful execution. "Genius," it is said, "does what it must and talent what it can". Dr.Rajah Sir was fortunately endowed with both genius and talent and hence, he admirably succeeded in using "the fire of his genius to change the flint into the transparent crystal, bright and clear".

Under the far-sighted direction and sagacious guidance of the Rajah Saheb as Pro-Chancellor, the Annamalai University scaled new heights of renown by widening its spectrum of academic programmes, introducing new disciplines and implementing innovative schemes of faculty development. A fine balance between the humanities and the sciences, between teaching and research, between theoretical and practical studies was maintained. New departments, particularly in the domains of Agriculture, Engineering and Technology,

Law, Medicine and Distance Education came to be added which raised the status and stature of the University impressively. "Make no more heroes, God, but elevate the race" said Browning. Dr. Rajah Sir, accordingly, insisted on a complex, balanced system of education, which could instil in the youth a scientific temper blended with a sense of humanism, a universality of outlook and an insight into the everlasting values of life.

Above all, the Rajah Saheb won the hearts of one and all, whatever be their political affiliations, religious persuasions or casteist inclinations, by his suavity of temperament, entertaining manners, and endearing personal charm. His unbounded hospitality and disarming affection reached out to all classes of people, whether affluent or indigent, literate or illiterate. The following lines of James Russell Lowell may be borrowed to delineate the simple, gentle and lovable man that Dr. Rajah Sir was:

> *"His magic was not far to seek -*
> *He was so human! Whether strong or weak*
> *Far from his kind he neither sank nor soared,*
> *But sat an equal guest at every board*
> *No begger ever felt him condescend,*
> *No prince presume; for still himself he bore*
> *At manhood's simple level and where'er*
> *He met a stranger, there he left a friend."*

In sum, I should say that the following words of telling eloquence, extracted from the brilliantly expressive message received from our most respected Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, for this Commemoration Number, precisely and faithfully portray the adorable traits of

Padmabhushan Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar's personality and his epochal achievements :

"உரத்த சிந்தனைகளுக்கும், தெளிவான எண்ணங்களுக்கும் துணிவான செயல்பாடுகளுக்கும், ஓர் ஒட்டுமொத்த உருவமாக விளங்கிய டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ. முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்கள் தமிழ் நாட்டின் நலனை முன் நிறுத்தி தனது ஆற்றல், அறிவு அனைத்தையும் செலவழித்திருக்கிறார் என்பதை நினைவுகூரும்போது, நல்லோரின் மனம் நிச்சயமாய் மகிழ்ச்சி அடையும். கல்வி, தொழில், நிர்வாகம் ஆகியவற்றின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக அவர் ஆற்றிய தொண்டுகளை தமிழகம் என்றைக்கும் மறக்காது.

குறிப்பிட்ட ஒரு துறையில் அறிவாற்றலும் பயிற்சியும் இருந்தால் போதும் என்ற சிந்தனைகள் வளர்ந்து வருகின்ற இன்றைய சூழ்நிலையில், அபூர்வமான தனது சிந்தனை ஆற்றலாலும் செயல் ஆற்றலாலும், தனது பல்கலைத் திறனை வெளிப் படுத்தி பன்முனைப் பேராண்மையை உலகிற்கு வெளிப்படுத்தியவர் டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ. முத்தையா அவர்கள்.

ஓர் உயர்ந்த எண்ணத்துடன் செயல்பட்ட டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ. முத்தையா அவர்கள் வளர்ந்து வரும் தலைமுறைக்கு இன்னும் ஒரு வழிகாட்டி யாகத் திகழ்ந்து வருகிறார்."

I consider it an honour to have been asked to prepare this Souvenir which is dedicated to the memory of an unforgettable celebrity of this century, whose example of devoted public service, versatile erudition, boundless munificence and love of humanity will for ever remain a beacon of inspiration to all those whose faith in democracy, freedom and human values is unfaltering. In this connection, I wish to state that our most grateful thanks are due to our Hon'ble Chief Minister for having

done us proud by agreeing to release the Souvenir and thereby enhancing the signifiance of the event that is being celebrated.

The Celebrations Committee and I wish to acknowledge our profound indebtedness to Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, the beloved son of the Rajah Saheb and Patron of Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar Memorial Trust, for, it was he who, in association with the Tamil Nadu Viswakarma Welfare Association, had taken enormous pains to get the statue of his revered father installed within the office complex of the Corporation of Madras and also secure the valued consent of our Hon'ble Chief Minister herself to unveil it. It is his total commitment, wholehearted encouragement and helpful guidance as Patron of the Trust that has made it possible for us to organise the unveiling function and bring out the Commemoration Volume in a manner befitting the grandeur of the celebrations. It gladdens our hearts in no small measure to see that Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, like his dearly loved dad, is the very epitome of magnificence and munificence.

I must express my heart felt thanks to Thiru AR.Ramaswamy, Secretary of the Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar Memorial Trust, who has been of considerable help in organising the celebrations. In this connection, I am obliged to Thiru L.Sabaretnam, Executive Director, Chettinad Cement Corporation Ltd., for all the assistance he has extended to me and the Trust. To Thiru. Mylai K.Rajagopalan my thanks are due for assisting me ably in the compilation of this Souvenir by collecting all the required materials including photographs with meticulous care and zeal. The printing of this Volume was entrusted to M/s. Asian Printers, who deserve our appreciation and sincere thanks for their painstaking efforts to get the Souvenir ready in record time, while making it look pleasingly attractive.

S.V. CHITTIBABU
Chairman, Celebrations Committee & Editor

Messages

ஜெ. ஜெயலலிதா
முதலமைச்சர்

தலைமைச் செயலகம்
சென்னை-600 009

நாள் : 8-10-199[illegible]

வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி

செட்டி நாட்டரசர் என்று தமிழ் கூறும் நல்லுலகம் உவகைப் பெருக்கோடும், நன்றி உணர்வோடும் நினைவு கூரும் டாக்டர் ராஜா சர் எம். ஏ. முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்களின் உருவச் சிலை திறப்பு விழா தொடர்பாக, நினைவு மலர் ஒன்று வெளியிடப்படுவது அறிந்து நான் மிக்க மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகிறேன்.

உரத்த சிந்தனைகளுக்கும், தெளிவான எண்ணங்களுக்கும், துணிவான செயல்பாடுகளுக்கும், ஓர் ஒட்டுமொத்த உருவமாக விளங்கிய டாக்டர் எம். ஏ. முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்கள் தமிழ்நாட்டின் நலனை முன் நிறுத்தி தனது ஆற்றல், அறிவு அனைத்தையும் செலவழித்திருக்கிறார் என்பதை நினைவுகூரும்போது, நல்லோரின் மனம் நிச்சயமாய் மகிழ்ச்சி அடையும். கல்வி, தொழில், நிர்வாகம் ஆகியவற்றின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக அவர் ஆற்றிய தொண்டுகளைத் தமிழகம் என்றைக்கும் மறக்காது.

குறிப்பிட்ட ஒரு துறையில் அறிவாற்றலும், பயிற்சியும் இருந்தால் போதும் என்ற சிந்தனைகள் வளர்ந்து வருகின்ற இன்றைய சூழ்நிலையில், அபூர்வமான தனது சிந்தனை ஆற்றலாலும், செயல் ஆற்றலாலும், தனது பல்கலைத் திறனை வெளிப்படுத்தி பன்முனைப் பேராண்மையை உலகிற்கு வெளிப்படுத்தியவர் டாக்டர் எம். ஏ. முத்தையா அவர்கள்.

உயர்கல்வி, நகராட்சி நிர்வாகம், தொழில்களின் மேலாண்மை, திருக்கோயில்கள் பராமரிப்பு போன்றவற்றில் ஆழ்ந்த அறிவும், நுணுக்கமான ஈடுபாடும் கொண்டு, ஓர் உயர்ந்த எண்ணத்துடன் செயல்பட்ட டாக்டர் திரு. எம். ஏ. முத்தையா அவர்கள், வளர்ந்து வரும் தலைமுறைக்கு இன்றும் ஒரு வழிகாட்டியாக திகழ்ந்து வருகிறார்.

அவரது வாழ்க்கை வரலாறு, வளர்ந்து வரும் சமுதாயத்திற்கு ஒரு படிப்பினையாக அமைந்துள்ளதைச் சுட்டிக்காட்டுவதில் பெருமைப்படுகிறேன்.

அத்தகைய சான்றோரின் உருவச் சிலையைத் திறந்து வைக்கின்ற விழா நிகழ்ச்சிகள் சீரோடும் சிறப்போடும் நடைபெற எனது இதயம் கனிந்த நல்வாழ்த்துகள்.

ஜெ. ஜெயலலிதா
தமிழக முதலமைச்சர்

ZAIL SINGH
Former President of India

Phone : 3016045
4, Circular Road,
Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi-110 021.

Date : September 12, 1994

I am glad to know that the statue of Padmabhushan Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar is being unveiled on 21st October, 1994 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha.

Dr. Muthiah Chettiar was the First Mayor of Madras the Pro-Chancellor of Annamalai University for many years. He held the position of Minister of the then composite Madras State. His contribution to the field of education, industry, banking and commerce was unique for the development of Tamil Nadu. He had leadership qualities and his approach was practical. He was a great philanthropist and had compassion and love for the people. He shared his wealth for the benefit of one and all. During his mayoralty he streamlined the administration of the Madras Corporation and improved the conditions of slum dwellers. The sacrifice made by him will alwys be remembered.

I congratulate the Chairman Dr. S.V. Chittibabu and other Members of the Trust for doing excellent work in perpetuating the memory of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar.

I wish the function a great success.

ZAIL SINGH

K.V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY
Governor of West Bengal
Government of West Bengal

Raj Bhavan
Calcutta

September 22, 1994

MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the Madras Municipal Corporation is installing the statue of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar on October 21, 1994.

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar is remembered for his contributions in the field of education. He was also a politician of great standing. His contributions as pro-Chancellor of Annamalai University, as the first Mayor of Madras Corporation and as a Minister were unique.

I wish the function all success.

JUSTICE K. VEERASWAMI
Former Chief Justice of Tamil Nadu

Madras-600 020

October 10, 1994

MESSAGE

My association with the Rajah's family spanned three generations, Dr. Muthiah Chettiar being the centre of it. He was an institution of high and varied values. His dedication to many a public and private cause was admirable, including enduring contribution to Tamil and culture. He was an unusually perfect gentleman all his life. There were occasions for me to share his tears of joy and sorrow. He was a blooming flower among men. Though withered, its fragrance lives after him. It will be so. a treasurable tradition, ever.

JUSTICE V. RAMASWAMI
Chairman
State Law Commission

54, Justice V. Ramaswami Road
Kamaraj Avenue, Adyar,
Madras-600 020
Tel. 419447 / 416122

October 10, 1994

MESSAGE

I deem it a privilege to send a message on the occasion of unveiling of the statue of Padmabhushan Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, one of the most eminent personalities of the century in Indian history. It is also befitting that his statue is to be installed at the Ripon Building Complex. His services in the civic body and especially as the first Mayor of the Madras City Municipal Corporation are not only unique but also he may be termed as the founding father of Municipal Corporation administration having been at the helm of its affairs right from the time when the Madras City Municipal Corporation Act was enacted. In fact I feel that the place where the statue has been installed was vacant and remained a vacuum all these years.

Many eminent writers had written and spoken of the qualities of his head and heart; his business acumen, political sagacity and suave manners, on many occasions. He was a good conversationalist and had a wide knowledge of varied subjects. In fact when in conversation he used to repeat and ask as to whether he was understood, everytime he touched on an important aspect in his life or the subject which he was talking. He was a great legislator also. He used to wear an immaculate and imperial dress always. The imperial outward look however never made him imperialistic in behaviour towards others. He was courteous to a fault both to the big and small.

I felt a personal loss when he passed away. Just a few days prior to his death he was with me in my house and had a cup of milk, and this is still fresh in my mind. In fact he is always in my mind. I am glad that the statue of such an eminent personality is to be opened by a no less eminent personality viz., our beloved Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on the 21st of October 1994.

N. HARIBHASKAR, I.A.S.
Chief Secretary
Government of Tamil Nadu

Secretariat
Madras-600 009

October 4, 1994

MESSAGE

I am very happy to know that the statue of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, First Mayor of Madras is to be unveiled by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu within the Ripon Buildings Complex. Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar was a Statesman endowed with pragmatic dynamism and organisational acumen. He had served the City of Madras in various capacities. He had a genuine concern for the economically weaker sections of the society and it was this concern for the poor, which was recognised by the people, when he won as elected President of the Municipal Council of Madras in 1932. During his two term of office as Mayor of Madras he took progressive measures for improving the living conditions of slum dwellers.

It is most appropriate that his statue is to be installed within this complex as he was the first Mayor of the Corporation of Madras and it was in that capacity he sought to improve the conditions of Madras City.

On this happy occasion I wish the function all success.

DR. K. CHOCKALINGAM,
M.B.B.S., F.R.C.S.
Sheriff of Madras

Devaki Hospital
148, Luz Church Road
Mylapore,
Madras-600 004.
Phone : 4993391, 4993749
Fax : 4993282

Date : August 26, 1994

MESSAGE

I am very happy to learn that the Honourable Chief Minister will be unveiling the statue of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar. I have had the pleasure of knowing him and moving with him closely. He was a well wisher of everybody and his hospitality towards everyone was exemplary. He endeavoured to understand everyone's problem and help him in whatever way possible. In short, he had been a great friend for every friend. His contribution towards education in India is noteworthy.

I wish the function every success.

G.K. MOOPANAR

41, Luz Avenue
Mylapore
Madras-600 004
Phone : 499194

Date : 1-10-94

வணக்கம். பத்ம பூஷண் டாக்டர் ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்களது திருஉருவச்சிலையை சென்னை மாநகராட்சி வளாகத்தில் திறந்து வைக்கவும், அது குறித்து மலர் வெளியிடுவதும் அறிந்து மிக்க மகிழ்ச்சியுறுகிறேன்.

செட்டி நாட்டரசர் டாக்டர் ராஜா சர் அவர்கள் பல துறைகளிலும் மேம்பட்டு விளங்கியவர். அண்ணாமலை பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் இணைவேந்தராக 32 ஆண்டுகள் விளங்கியவர். சென்னை நகராட்சி உறுப்பினரிலிருந்து தமிழக மேலவை உறுப்பினர் வரை பல பதவிகளைக் கண்டவர்.

செட்டி நாட்டரசர் குடும்பத்தினர் தமிழகத்தில் கல்வித்துறையும் தாண்டி தமிழிசை வளர்ப்பதிலும், ஆன்மீகப் பணியிலும் தங்களுடைய முத்திரையை தமிழகத்தில் பதித்து வைத்துள்ளதை யாரும் மறந்துவிட முடியாது. இந்தக் குடும்பத்தினர் இப்பணிகளை மூன்று தலைமுறைகளாக தொடர்ந்து நடத்திக் கொண்டிருப்பது தமிழகத்துக்குப் பெருமை சேர்ப்பதாகும்.

சென்னை நகரம் மாநகராட்சியாக அமைக்கப் பட்ட போது அதன் முதல் மேயராக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப் பட்ட அறுபது ஆண்டுகள் நிறைவு விழாவினை ஒட்டி அவரது முழு உருவச்சிலை மாநகராட்சி வளாகத்தில் நிறுவி அவர் நினைவினை கொண்டாடுவது சாலச் சிறந்ததாகும்.

விழா சிறப்புற நடைபெறவும், இந்த நல்ல முயற்சியில் ஈடுபட்டிருக்கும் விழாக் குழுவினருக்கும் என் உளமார்ந்த நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள்.

உ
சிவ சிவ

தன்கடன் அடியேனையும் தாங்குதல்
என் கடன் பணி செய்து கிடப்பதே

குன்றக்குடி-623 206
ப.மு.தே. மாவட்டம்
தொலைபேசி: குன்றக்குடி-9227

தவத்திரு
குன்றக்குடி அடிகளார்

நாள் : 6-9-94

அன்பு நிறைந்த நமது டாக்டர் சை.வே. சிட்டிபாபு அவர்களுக்கு, எல்லா நன்மைகளும் பெருகத் திருவருளைச் சிந்தித்து வாழ்த்துகின்றோம்.

டாக்டர் ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்களுக்குத் திருவுருவம் அமைக்க, தங்களுடைய தலைமையில் முயற்சி நடப்பது அறிந்து மட்டற்ற மகிழ்ச்சி. காலம் தாழ்ந்த முயற்சி. எனினும் அமைவுடைய முயற்சி.

"புரவலன் போலும் தோற்றம் உறழ்கொள
இரவல் மாக்களின் பணிமொழி பயிற்றி"

என்ற சங்கப்பாடல் வரிகளுக்கு இலக்கணமாகத் திகழ்ந்தவர் செட்டிநாட்டரசர் முத்தைய்யா செட்டியார். வளமான, புகழ்மிக்க குடும்பத்தில் தோன்றினாலும் அந்த வளமும் புகழும் நிலைநிற்குமாறு செய்ததோடன்றி மேலும் புதுவளமும் புதுப்புகழும் ஈட்டியவர். அவர்தம் குடும்பத்திற்கு மட்டுமல்ல, தமிழர்க்கும் தமிழுக்கும் ஆக்கம் சேர்த்தவர். வள்ளுவம் காட்டும் அடக்கம், எளிமை, இனிமை, நட்புறவு, ஆட்சித்திறன் முதலிய மனித இயல்புகளை ஒருங்கே பெற்ற மனிதர் - மாமனிதர் செட்டிநாட்டரசர். காட்சிக்கு எளியராக, கடுஞ்சொல் இல்லாதவராக இருந்தது அவருக்கிருந்த பெருமை. அவர்தம் வழித்தோன்றல் டாக்டர் மு.அ.மு. இராமசாமி செட்டியார் அவர்களுடைய இனிய பண்புகள் அவருடைய தந்தையின் அருள் குணங்களை அறிமுகப்படுத்துகின்றன.

செட்டிநாட்டரசர் டாக்டர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்கள் திருவுருவம் திருவோலக்கம் செய்யப்படட்டும்! அதற்குத் திருவருள் துணை நிற்பதாகுக! தங்களுடைய உயரிய முயற்சிக்குப் பாராட்டுக்கள்! வாழ்த்துக்கள்!

இன்ப அன்பு

அடிகளார்.

T. SADASIVAM
M.S. SUBBULAKSHMI

'Sivam-Subham'
11, First Main Road
Kotturpuram
Madras-600 085
Phone : 414775

October 10, 1994

MESSAGE

The late Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar, Rajah of Chettinad, was a gentleman every inch. He was a towering personality of his times in the City of Madras. He was the worthy son of his worthy father and inherited the charitable bent of mind from his father. The quality we admired the most in him, which is normally absent in many people in high society, was that once acquainted with a person, irrespective of the other man's age and stature. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar used to spot him even in a crowd and walk upto him and make enquiries about his welfare. He was always calm and collected. The only occasion when we saw him shaken was when he lost his beloved wife.

It is good that the Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar Memorial Trust is erecting a statue for him in the campus of Ripon Building as the first Mayor of the Madras Corporation.

R. KRISHNAMOORTHY

Res : 9, Masilamani Road
Balaji Nagar
Madras-600 014
Phone : 8266655

Off : High Court Buildings
Madras-600 104
Phone : 5340573
5341737 (Per.)

October 4, 1994

MESSAGE

I am extremely happy to learn that the statue of Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar is going to be unveiled on Friday the 21st instant by the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Besides being the First Mayor of Madras, Dr. Muthiah Chettiar had many Firsts to his credit. I have had the privilege of knowing him very intimately for several years. He had the finest quality of putting everyone at ease, whether he was a man of ordinary status in life or whether he was very young in age. He was an embodiment of courtesy and kindness. His contribution to the cause of education by nurturing and developing the Annamalai University and the various other educational institutions is something that everyone of us should be proud of. The various business activities and industries that he started and developed shows his concern for the welfare and development of Tamil Nadu. I am happy that under the able guidance of Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, the educational institutions and industries inherited by him from his father are very well taken care of. I wish the function all success.

NAWAB MOHAMMED ABDUL ALI
Prince of Arcot

"Amir Mahal"
Royapettah
Madras-600 014
Tel : 831286/831948/831110

October 12, 1994

MESSAGE

I was overwhelmed with happiness to learn that a function has been organised on the 21st October, 1994 for unveiling the statue of the scion of the Chettinad family, Padmabhushan Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar, within the Ripon Building Complex, by our most esteemed beloved Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha.

It is a befitting tribute to a great son of Tamil Nadu, who had the distinction of being the first Mayor of Madras, besides holding many other high posts, not only in the State, but on the national level too.

Rajah Sir Muthiah Chetiar contributed magnificently to Tamil Nadu in particular, and the country as a whole in all aspects of society like education, sports, industry and social welfare.

It is a delight for me to recall the enduring affection the Rajah Saheb had for the House of Arcot. My grandfather, Nawab Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan, the then Price of Arcot ,was a close friend of the Rajah Saheb. We were privileged to have his company in all our functions at our residence, 'Amir Mahal', which we always recollect with happiness.

His noble traditions are being fostered by his illustrious son, Rajah Saheb, Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, whose contribution to the Nation and the State of Tamil Nadu are commendable and equally praise worthy.

My prayers go forth with this for Rajah Saheb's and his family members" health, happiness and long life.

I wish the function a grand success.

DR. B.P. RAJAN, B.Sc., M.D.S.,F.I.C.D.,
Vice - Chancellor

No.40, Anna Salai
Guindy, Madras - 600 032.

MESSAGE

I am very glad to know that the Dr. Rajah Sir assisted by the Tamil Nadu Viswakarma Welfare Association have got Annamalai Chettiar Memorial Trust, a life - size statue of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar installed in the Rippon Building Complex. It is very gratifying to note that our Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha has given her consent to unveil the statue on 21st Oct '94. The steps taken by the Trust and the Association to honour Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad, as the first and youngest Mayor of Corporation of Madras are worthy of commendation. It is needless for one to say that the special souvenir to be brought out will highlight the qualities of head and heart of the Rajah Saheb such as his disarming humility, endearing hospitality, suavity of disposition and depth of knowledge of men and matters.

I have great pleasure in sending this message wishing the function a grand success.

K. PARASARAN
Senior Advocate

13, 8th Street
Dr.Radhakrishnan Salai
Mylapore, Madras-4

October 9, 1994

MESSAGE

I am extremely happy to note that the Statue of Padmabhushan Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar is being unveiled by the Honourable Chief Minister Dr. J. Jayalalitha on the 21st October 1994.

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar has left his indelible mark for posterity not only as the illustrious son of the Chettinad family but also by his contributions to the cause of education, to the industrial world and to the development of Tamil, Tamil Literature and Drama. He also surpassed Chettinad Family's tradition by his liberal contributions for many charitblble purposes to the poor and downtrodden. His munificent contributions to the religious world was bountiful. Sir Ayyappaswamy Temple at Raja Annamalaipuram speaks eloquently of that quality of his.

It is indeed a fitting tribute to Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar that his statue should be unveiled to permanently commemorate his memory. It is so thoughtful on the part of the members of the Committee to have decided on unveiling of the Statue of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar. It will be a beacon light which will remind those who happen to pass by, that noble men live for the community and their name and fame are evarlasting.

T.T. VASU

No.6, Cathedral Road
Madras-600 086

October 15, 1994

MESSAGE

The Chettinad House occupies a unique place in this part of India. Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar was an emperor without an empire in geographical terms. He was the Founder of the Annamalai University, the first of its kind in India. He spent vast sums of money in renovating the Nataraja temple in Chidamabaram which earned for him honour, respect and praise. The Raja Saheb was a leader who was associated with practically every movement of cultural and economic regeneration.

The Raja Saheb shaped his son, Raja Sir Muthiah Chettiar to preside over and continue his regal tradition without anybody feeling the difference between him and his heir. Sir Annamalai Chettiar provided all the atmosphere, facilities and opportunities for his illustrious son to inherit the traditions of his house absolutely unimpaired..

Raja Sir Muthiah Chettiar made his advent in public life with his being nominated to the Municipal Counicl of Madras as a Member by the then Government of Madras in 1929. He was elected President of the Council in 1932 and when the Council was raised to the status of Corporation, he was installed as the first Mayor of Madras.

It is befitting that the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J.Jayalalitha has agreed to unveil the statue of Raja Sir Muthiah Chettiar in memory of his services as a great educationist and philanthropist.

Tamilisai Sevvale
P. MANIKAVASAGAM
Phone : 43563

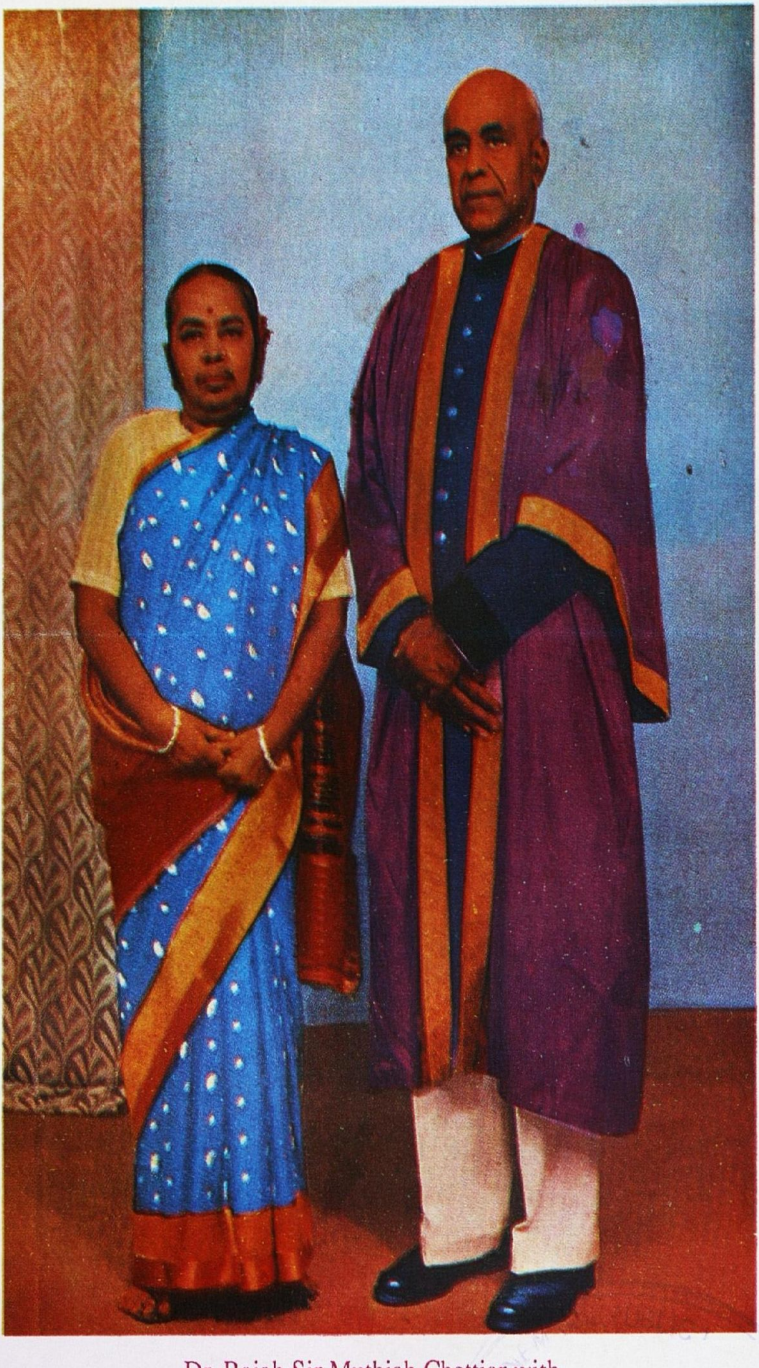
27, Ramachandranagar
Edamalaipattipudur Salai
Tiruchirapalli-620 012

9.10.94

MESSAGE

I am happy to know the arrangements being made for the celebration of the unveiling of the statue of Padmabhusan Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, First Mayor of Madras Corporation, by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. J. Jayalalitha, Puratchi Thalaivi on the 21st October 1994.

I also convey my best wishes for a grand success of the celebration.

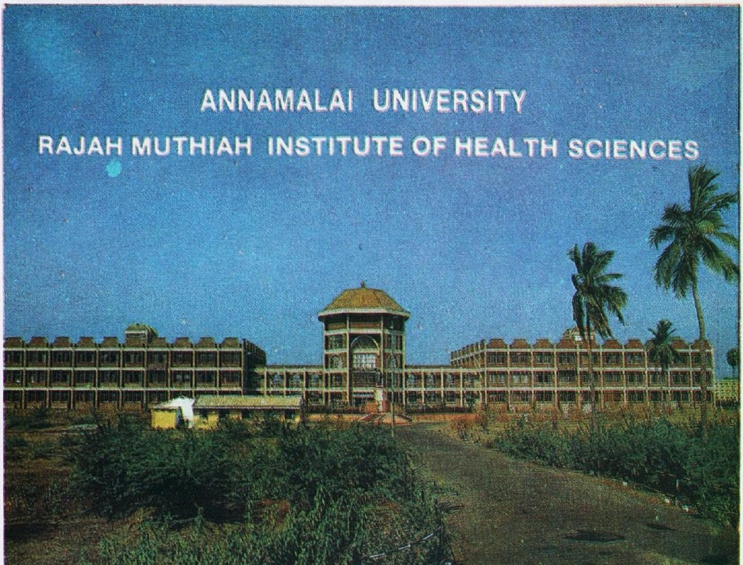


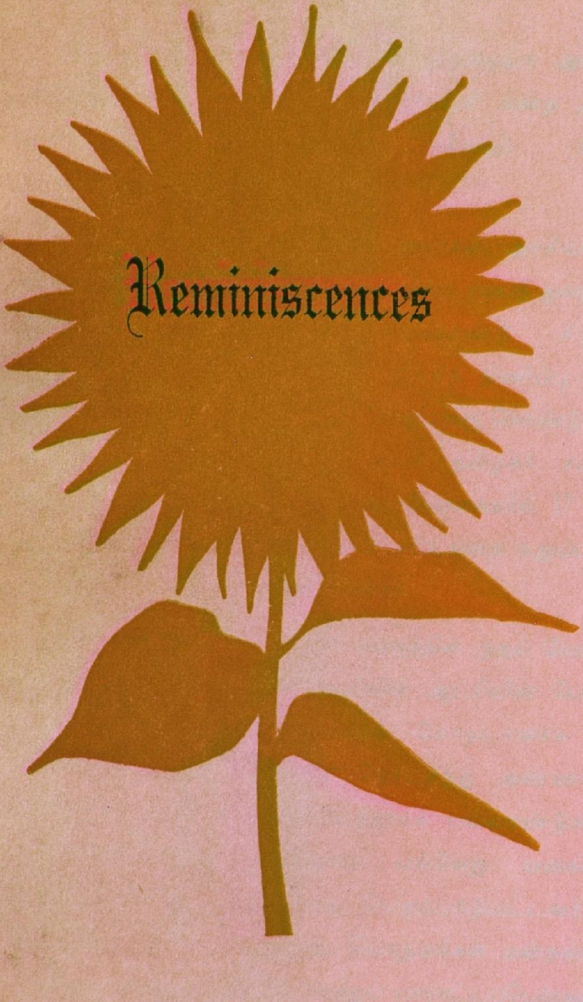
Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar with
Rani Lady Meyyammai Achi

Rajah's family with Prince Philip,
Duke of Edinburg

The Chettinad House, Adyar

Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar




Reminiscences

வாழ்க முத்தையவேள் பெரும்புகழ்

டாக்டர் இரா. நெடுஞ்செழியன் எம்.ஏ., டி.லிட்.,
நிதி அமைச்சர்

செட்டி நாட்டரசர் இராசா சர் முத்தையா அவர்களின் திருவுருவச் சிலை சென்னை மாநகராட்சி மன்ற அலுவலக வளாகத்தில் திறக்கப்படுவது மிகவும் போற்றிப் பாராட்டுதற்குரியதாகும்.

செட்டி நாட்டரசர் முத்தையா அவர்கள், அரசியல் துறை, கல்வித் துறை, தொழில் துறை, சமூகத் துறை, சமயத் துறை, வங்கித் துறை போன்றவற்றில் ஈடுபாடுகொண்டு சிறப்பாகப் பாடுபட்டதோடு, தமிழ் வளர்ச்சி, இந்தித் திணிப்பு எதிர்ப்பு, தமிழிசை வளர்ச்சி போன்றவற்றில் பெரும்பங்கு கொண்டு உழைத்த ஒரு பெருந்தகையாளராவார். அவர் தமிழகச் சட்டமன்ற மேலவையில் 19 ஆண்டுக் காலமும், பேரவையில் 17 ஆண்டுக் காலமும், ஆக 36 ஆண்டுக் காலம் சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினராகப் பணியாற்றிய பெருமைக்குரியவராவார்.

அவர் சென்னை மாநகராட்சி மன்றத்தின் முதல் மேயர் என்ற சிறப்புப் பெற்றதோடு, நீதிக் கட்சியின் ஆட்சியின் போது 1930 முதல் 1936 வரை, தலைமைக் கொறடாவாக இருந்து அரும்பணியாற்றியவர். அவர் தொடர்ந்து அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் துணைவேந்தராக பல்லாண்டுக் காலம் பணியாற்றிப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் பல்வேறு வகைகளிலும், வழிகளிலும் மேம்பாடு எய்த பெரும்பாடுபட்டவர். அவர் மத்திய-மாநில அரசுகளாலும், பொதுமக்கள் மன்றங்களாலும் பல்வேறு விருதுகள் அளிக்கப்பெற்றுப் பாராட்டப்பெற்றவர். அவர் ஒத்தார், உயர்ந்தார், தாழ்ந்தார் ஆகிய அனைவரிடமும் அன்புடனும், அறவணைப்புடனும், சமத்துவநிலையில் இருந்து பழகும் பண்பாடு உடையவர்.

அவர் சிறந்த அறிவுத்திறன், செயலாற்றல் திறன், நினைவாற்றல் திறன், செய்து முடிக்கும் திறன், விடா முயற்சி, யாவரையும் மதிக்கும் தன்மை போன்ற சிறந்த பண்புகளுக்கு உறைவிடமாக விளங்கினார். அவர் தமிழுக்கும், தமிழிசைக்கும், தமிழ் நாட்டிற்கும், செய்துள்ள அறப்பணிகள் அளப்பரியனவாகும். அப்படிப் பட்டவருடைய பெயரும், புகழும் என்றென்றும் நிலைத்து நின்று பொலிவு பெறுவனவாக! வாழ்க இராசா சர் முத்தையவேள் அவர்களின் பெரும் புகழ்!

A THOROUGH GENTLEMAN OF WISDOM AND CULTURE

R. VENKATARAMAN
Former President of India

I am happy to learn that a statue of Rajah Muthiah Chettiar is being installed in the Ripon Building complex. It is appropriate that his statue should adorn Madras Corporation as he was not only the First Mayor of Madras but also a father of many improvements in the city administration and civic life. Becoming the Mayor at a very young age of 28 and again for a second term a year later, Rajah Muthiah Chetiar is stated to have gone round the city from time to time in order to get first hand knowledge of the civic needs of the people. It was this trait, namely, to take every assignment seriously and not look upon it as a honorofic title that had characterised Rajah Muthiah Chettiar throughout his life.

The Chettinad family has a rich tradition of educational charities. Rajah Annamalai Chettiar, the illustrious father of Rajah Muthiah Chettiar, has left an everlasting monument to his memory in the shape of the Annamalai University. The seeds that he sowed were nurtured with care and dedication by Rajah Muthiah Chettiar for over 36 years as its Pro-Chancellor. During this period, Annamalai University expanded swiftly covering several faculties like Agriculture, Engineering, Marine Biology etc. Annamalai University under his fostering care became a Centre of Excellence and of Higher Research. His dream of a Medical faculty has been fulfilled by his devoted son Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswami.

Rajah Muthiah Chettiar was a patron of Tamil Literature, music and fine arts. His was a cultured and refined life combining the rich and ancient traditions with modern science and technology. His ideas were progressive and forward looking. He had experience and expertise in Banking, Finance and Industry and could offer valuable suggestions and advice in these and other areas. Rajah Muthiah Chettiar was my contemporary in the then

Madras Legislature during 1957 to 1967 and a personal friend of mine. His speeches were marked by precision, dignity and depth. He had always some constructive suggestions to offer on any issue before the House, be it education, industry, health or welfare. He was the pink of courtesy, decency and decorum. In short, he was a thorough gentleman.

Rajah Muthiah Chettiar had a vast business empire. He handled it with skill and expanded it manifold. He launched the major industrial venture for manufacture of cement at Karur and turned it into a striking success.

All causes, social, educational and religious, received his abundant and princely help and assistance. In this, he carried forward the Chettinad family tradition and improved upon it. May his exemplary life inspire future generations.

RAJAH SIR - A DEAR FRIEND AND PEOPLE'S PRINCE

JUSTICE V.R. KRISHNA IYER

Can a blue-blooded aristocrat be transformed into a people-oriented democrat? Can an elitist son of one of the wealthiest Indians, with a noble title of Rajah Sir as a rich prefix, be an orator espousing the causes of commoners with a patriotic passion? Yes, such a soul was my friend and fellow legislator in the Madras Legislative Assembly - Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar. As he rose to speak the House heard him with rapt attention since his eloquence was arresting, his stately figure was commanding, and his torrent of speech was preganant with compelling argument, not, as often happens these days, 'full of sound and fury signifying nothing'! I have heard him, marvelled at his rapid roar of words and admired the feeling in his heart which was the locomotive of his performance in the Assembly which, during those days, the early fifties, was studded with erudites, nationalists and renowned leaders.

My tribute does not end with praise of his mastery of the spoken word. Of course, he was rich, his beautifully located palace was a spacious mansion, with rivals rare in the country, and his charitable disposition was as large as his heart. His humility sometimes stunned me; his liberality took me by surprise and his wisdom as Pro-Chancellor of the Annamalai University was peerless. I am an alumnus of that University which, during my student days, was a famous institution with enormous spaces and activities and a library to walk through which, reading the titles, was an experience and education.

A bewildering variety of offices did Dr. Rajah Sir fill with distinction. This great son of Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar shone not merely as the Pro-Chancellor of the Annamalai University for 36 long years, but was a dynamic member of the Constituent Assembly and the first Mayor of the Corporation of Madras. Great in many fields like banking, welfare of the

Viswakarma Community plus plus. In one sense, he was amongst the rarest of the rare in the enlightened band Tamilnadu has produced. Among the most outstanding services he rendered to the cause of the country's education was the Annamalai University, established by his great father and steered for long years by him as Pro-Chancellor. Historic institutions of culture have elicited denunciation and acclamation. Did not Gibbon write :

> "To the University of Oxford I acknowledge no obligation; and she will as cheerfully renounce me for a son, as I am willing to disclaim her for a mother. I spent fourteeen months at Magdalen College: they proved the fourteen months the most idle and unprofitable of my whole life."

About the same University we have Mathew Arnold speak in memorable phrases :

> "Beautiful city! so venerable, so lovely, so unravaged by the fierce intellectual life of our century, so serene! . . . whispering from her towers the last enchantments of the Middle Age . . . Home of lost causes, and forsaken beliefs, and unpopular names, and impossible loyalties! (Oxford)".

My experience of the Annamalai University has been one of gratitude for shaping my life, of profound reverence for the learning and creative training of which I have had my share. No University can be great unless the finer spirit which shapes its destiny from time to time is itself great. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar during his effective tenure as Pro-Chancellor had done his best to make Annamalai a home and haven which would nurture latent talent and bring out the best in every student. Of course, it has had its ups and downs, as all mortal institutions have. But reflecting on the years I spent in the hallowed educational complex I feel a perennial flow of obligation. Indeed, we had, in those times, an atmosphere of free discussion, of fearless debate and a climate of academic excellence. What else do we need for a career of brilliance than our future being nurished by teachers of high scholarship and lofty values, our minds being cultivated by books, otherwise rare to come by, for development of faculties and

character. Their impact on critical and creative tastes, and for ascent in all departments of life at one's young age is elevating indeed!

I have beheld in Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar a person of great capacity, finer faculties and touching affection. Even in his last days when he was lying in bed ailing, I have had occasion to meet him. I insisted he should not get up but he defied me and not only rose from his bed but garlanded me profusely - a rare gesture of sensitive attachment I cannot forget in my life.

There are many other aspects of this princely person and his parts which fall beyond the orbit of my association with him. All I know about him is as a human being with great traits and loving heart reminding one of the power and compassion within. I should conclude with stating that in him passion and patience blended beautifully, challenge and change merged naturally and painstaking learning and vast riches, which could induce lazy indulgence, coalesced sweetly. I am reminded, with permissible exaggeration, of Mark Antony's words :

"His life was gentle; and the elements
So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, This was a man!

There is a divinity in everyone which is what I call the democracy of divinity. In some we get glimpses of it, in others there is a larger measure of manifestation. In Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar there was a blended brew of many good things. If I may comment philosophically and generalise about humanity triggered by what I have occasionally seen in Rajah Sir I have only to quote from Hamlet :

"What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in form, and moving, how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals!"

I have given but a just meed of tribute to an old friend, a humane person, a loving soul.

A RARE COMBINATION OF RARE QUALITIES

JUSTICE S. NATARAJAN

Former Judge, Supreme Court of India

Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar was an illustrious scion of his memorable father Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar. He proved himself to be a worthy inheritor to the great kingdom of fame, wealth, knowledge, charity and hospitality left by his dynamic father.

Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar was an institution by himself. He combined in himself the rare qualities of an able administrator, irreprochable politician, dedicated educationist, astute businessman, benevolent philanthropist, ardent devotee and humane citizen. Because of his association with the Corporation of Madras as Councillor and its first Mayor, he was well-versed with the laws relating to local bodies and the intricate administrative procedures. As a Member of the Legislative Council and as a Minister in the pre-Independence days and later as a Member of the Constituent Assembly and the State Legislative Council, he had acquired mastery in all legislative matters. As the Pro-Chancellor of the Annamalai University, he had come to be respected as a progressive and dynamic educationist. His deep love of Tamil and his interest in music, made him a patron-saint for all institutions engaged in promoting Tamil literature and the fine arts. As Chairman of many industrial concerns and banks, his knowledge and experience of corporate administration and banking affairs were phenomenal. As a philanthropist, his donations to regligious and charitable institutions, cultural organisations and welfare associations for the weaker sections of people are too numerous to be enumerated. Above all these, Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar was a gentleman to the core. His simplicity, affability and modesty made him a

NOBLE BY BIRTH, NOBLER BY DEEDS

JUSTICE S. MOHAN
Judge, Supreme Court of India

Nothing pleases me more than to know that Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar's statue is shortly to be unveiled.

It was Longfellow, a great poet, who said :

"Noble by birth nobler by deeds."

The Rajah was a Distinguished Son of India, an Eminent Educationist, a Patriot, Statesman, Parliamentarian, Patron of Tamil and Tamil Culture, Connoisseur of Fine Arts and Sports, Lover of English; a World-Traveller and an Architect and Founder of many Schemes and Institutions. He was a noble philanthropist, a man of high thinking and remarkable memory -- gentle, affectionate, duty-conscious, simple, hospitable, religious, and humanitarian to the core.

His was a life of unremitting endeavour in the service of his fellow-men, especially in the field of education. His services were so outstanding that an appreciative Government conferred upon him honours in quick succession. He believed in what Benjamin Franklin said :

> "If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."

It was by such inspiration he ploughed all his wealth into the field of education, which today has blossomed into Annamalai University.

If ever a University is a place of light and learning it is Annamalai University.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the illustrious Prime Minister of India stated :

"A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason,

for the adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards even higher objectives."

How well Annamalai University befits these words!

With courage, determination and vision, he ushered in a new and glorious period in the history of India and left a legacy to future generations of which we can be proud. It is a stupendous task achieved by tireless striving. He strongly believed :

A vision without a task is a dream
A task without vision is drudgery
A vision and a task are the hope of the world.

He was a rare gifted patron of learning. It was his unflagging interest to maintain such learning at the highest level.

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar was an embodiment of culture representing the widening of mind and of the spirit. Any one who came across him was always impressed by this excellent quality. He never failed in courtesy. How beautiful was his humble courtesy! He was proverbial in his hospitality, a trait rare to find these days. Alas! such a noble man is sadly missed today.

May his memory be cherished by the present generation and the generations to come! May his spirit, like Plato's Shades, hover for all time !

A MAN OF EXEMPLARY SIMPLICITY AND COURTESY

JUSTICE M.M. ISMAIL
Former Chief Justice, Madras High Court

I am extremely happy to note that the Tamil Nadu Vishvakarma Welfare Association with the help of Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar Memorial Trust has got ready a life-size statue of Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad to be installed within the Ripon Building Complex housing the office of the Corporation of Madras.

I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Rajah Sir M.A.Muthiah Chettiar fairly intimately and I had always been impressed by the exemplary simplicity and earnestness he displayed in whatever he undertook and the generosity shown by him in relation to every public cause. The part he played in the establishment of the Annamalai University at Chidambaram by his illustrious father Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar is a part of history. Not only he played a part in the founding of the University by his father, but also he continued to show deep interest in the steady development and growth of the University and later when he in turn became the Pro-Chancellor of the University, the institution had grown to be one of the most popular ones in the country.

Those who had moved with Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, would not have failed to be impressed by his innate simplicity and uniform courtesy, which he showed even to small boys, leave alone the elders and big people.

From every point of view Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar was a personality with wide interest in all matters of public concern not only in our State but also throughout the country and had played a notable part in every activity with which he was associated.

On this occasion of the unveiling of the statue of such a rare person, I convey my most earnest and sincere good wishes.

A SYMBOL OF UNFAILING COURTESY AND UNSTINTED SERVICE

JUSTICE P.R. GOKULAKRISHNAN
Former Chief Justice, Gujarat High Court

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, the symbol of unfailing courtesy is no more with us. But the rich traditions left by him are being maintained by his illustrious son Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy. My association with Rajah Sir dates back to 1957. Prior to that I used to venerate him for his love for Tamil language. That was during my student days. His flair for social service, puritanism in politics, perfection of execution in his undertakings, cordiality in public relationship, and fervent promotion of Tamil language attracted not only myself but hundreds of thousands of youngsters in those days. Born with silver spoon in his mouth Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar was not in the least concerned about his own comfort and convenience. His unstinted services to the famous Annamalai University as its Pro-Chancellor speak volumes about his literary acumen and unflinching interest in the field of education. The pet child of Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar it attained the pinnacle of glory as one of the best Universities of the world under the able guidance of Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar. That spirit of service and that pace of progress, I find, are being continued by their descendents.

The great liking that the Rajah had for me enabled me to get an opportunity to address the students of the Annamalai University during a Convocation when late Mr. Justice B.S. Somasundaram was its Vice-Chancellor. I rose equal to the occasion in a fitting manner by delivering my speech in Tamil and the Rajah Saheb heartily congratulated me on the dais itself, thereby showing his nobility of stature. Later on Rajah invited me to deliver an Inaugural Address to the Tamil Isai Sangam during the Seventies, which honour I can never forget.

From that time onwards our Rajah Sir took a fancy for me and made it a point to visit my house atleast once in a month alongwith Mr. AR. Ramasamy, and during those occasions we had long discussions on various social and literary subjects. The memory of Rajah Sir was so remarkable that it was a pleasure to listen to him and, in fact, I gathered voluminous information during any conversation with him.

How can I ever forget that greatest moment when our Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar and our esteemed M.A. Chidambaram Chettiar both visited my house a decade ago to request me to take up the Presidentship of the prestigious Tamil Isai Sangam. I still continue as its President with the active support, goodwill and assistance of the present dynamic Honorary Secretary Dr. A.C. Muthiah.

Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar as the Pro-Chancellor of Annamalai University, excelled as a University by himself what with his fund of knowledge. Many Universities have no doubt produced intellectuals but humanism, which is the hall mark of culture, is found lacking. Anyone who came into contact with our greatman Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar learnt that true culture eschewed anger, harsh words, jealousy and lust. Such was the greatness of our Rajah Sir and such is the great tradition of the Chettinad family that was lit up by the great Annamalai Chettiar, and preserved by Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar. That tradition is now nurtured, maintained and continued with all its glory by revered Thiru. M.A. Chidambaram Chettiar, Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy and Dr.A.C. Muthiah.

A PERSONALITY OF RARE TRAITS

JUSTICE AR. LAKSHMANAN
Judge, High Court of Madras

I am delighted to learn that the statue of Dr. Rajah Sir M.A.Muthiah Chettiar is going to be unveiled within the campus of the Ripon Building.

He was a great and noble son of Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar and a multifaceted personality who had made significant contributions to almost all fields of human endeavour. His contribution as Pro-Chancellor of Annamalai University for more than three decades was not only distinguished but also unique. He has left profound and indelible imprints and impression in the various offices he held as a Minister of the Composite State of Madras, as a Member of the Defence Council and as the first Mayor of Madras.

He belonged to a rare class of Indians who had rendered yeoman service for the cause of education, for the development of Industries, Banking and Commerce. It is in the fitness of things that the life - size statue of Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar should be installed to perpetuate his memory.

I wish the function all success and congratulate the Statue Unveiling Celebration Committee for having taken steps to erect the statue of Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar.

A PILLAR OF SOCIETY

JUSTICE R. SADASIVAM
Former Chief Justice, Madras High Court

I am very happy to learn that the statue of Dr. Rajah Sir M.A.Muthiah Chettiar is going to be unveiled by the popular Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. J. Jayalalitha, on 21st October 1994.

It was my singular privilege to be introduced to Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, founder of the Annamalai University, by my revered father even when I was a college student and I was struck by the humility of such a great man in condescending to make me feel at home. I had the pleasure and privilege of knowing Dr.Rajah M.A. Muthiah Chettiar from his youthful days. He was senior to me by five years. I had the good fortune to have participated in several functions in his palatial house and elsewhere. As Pro-Chancellor of Annamalai University for 36 years, he cherished and fulfilled the ideals of his illustrious father Dr.Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar who founded the University and gave his heart and soul to make it an ideal residential university. During his Pro-Chancellorship the Silver and Golden Jubilees of the university were celebrated. I had the good fortune to participate in the Golden Jubilee as a member of the Senate of the Annamalai University. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar's contribution for the development of Tamil Literature and Music deserves special mention. Apart from his being an able educationist, he was in the legislature; he was in the Ministry; he was a conspicious businessman connected with several banking and commercial institutions. In short, in his variegated career involving a wide and diverse range of interests, he dedicated his life selflessly for the betterment of society. In fact, he was a Pillar of Society.

In the present context, it is appropriate to refer to his services to the Corporation of Madras. He was elected to the City Corporation in 1929, and he was unanimously elected as President in 1932. He was the first Mayor of the Madras Corporation for

two successive terms in 1933-1934. His signal services in the Corporation of Madras richly deserve to be commemorated by the installation of a statue of his within the Ripon Building complex housing the office of the Corporation of Madras and it will be a source of inspiration and guidance to not only succeeding generations of persons interested in civic affairs but also the general public who are grateful to the multi-faceted personality who served the country in several fields.

pathetic conditions. Beautiful houses were found razed to the ground. Window frames and door frames were sold at distress prices. We of the delegation reached Rangoon via Calcutta. The Indian community gave us a big reception at the airport. Next day the delegation attended a Conference and we pleaded strongly that the promised compensation however meagre should be paid immediately to avert further distress. The officers took note, but made no committment. While Mr. Bhaktavatsalam returned to Madras after the Conference, I stayed behind and visited some places including "Inle lake" "Mandalay" where Tilak was kept in jail. The law and order situation was bad. We were warned not to leave our hotel after 8 o' clock in the night. There again, Rajah Saheb's men were present and they were of great assistance to us. But nothing happened and the compensation was not paid. I am mentioning this only to show Rajah Saheb's concern for the Chettiars and how he got the Government of India to agree to send a delegation.

I did attend Rajah Saheb's Sashtiabdapoorti at Kanadukathan, the ancestral home of the Chettinad Rajah. The ceremony as usual was celebrated with great joy and pomp, and was largely attended by friends and adorers. Incidentally, I may mention that I was present at the Sashtiabdapoorti Ceremony of Dr. Ramaswamy also. I may mention that the Chairmanship of the Indian Bank brought many people in close contact with Rajah Muthiah. I was the Treasurer of the Rabindranath Tagore Centenary Committee of which Pandit Nehru was the President and Humayun Kabir was the Secretary. In response to our appeal for funds Rajah Saheb on behalf of Indian Bank sent us a cheque for Rs.75,000/-. This contribution was the largest of the donations made either by institutions or by individuals.

At the instance of Rajah Saheb, who was then the Pro-Chancellor, I addressed the Convocation of the Annamalai University in 1951, when Dr. R.K. Shanmukham Chettiar was the Vice-Chancellor. The Pro-Chancellorship was taken by the Rajah Saheb after the demise of his father, Sir Annamalai Chettiar, in

1948. I also attended many functions of the Tamil Isai movement along with Rajah Saheb. Rajah Saheb took great interest in that movement. I am only mentioning a few of my recollections. One thing more I want to mention that Rajah Saheb got up very early in the morning just to garland me and wish me well when I was leaving for Kualalumpur for the World Telugu Conference. I was deeply touched by that gesture. Indeed Rajah Saheb was very generous. I was invited by him to join the Board of Directors of the Chettinad Cements in 1965 when I was out of office. My membership of the Board remained suspended during my Governorship from 1967 to 1972 and was revived after I returned home from Lucknow.

And finally before I close, Rajah Saheb invited me to stay at Chettinad House whenever I visited Madras. Since I was out of office, I accepted his invitations thankfully. And after his unfortunate demise, Dr. Ramaswamy told me that his father's demise did not make any difference and that I might continue to be their guest whenever I visited Madras. My stay at the Chettinad House only during my visits to Madras has been a wonder to my Andhra friends and relatives.

In conclusion I should say that I cherish grateful memories of all the very many good things that Rajah Saheb had done to me for years. I find no words adequate enough to express my indebtedness to Rajah Saheb on this happy occasion of the unveiling of his statue within the memorable Ripon Building campus. He was extravagantly generous to me and I had often asked myself "What is it that I have done to him to deserve such kindness from him?". Let me say : "Long live the memory of Rajah Saheb who had a large heart and a noble soul."

நான் கண்ட இரண்டாம் செட்டிநாட்டரசர்

Dr. கி. ஆ. பெ. விசுவநாதம்

தமிழகத்தில் எத்தனையோ சமூகங்கள் வாழ்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. சில சமூகங்கள் வாழ முடியாமலும் வாழ்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. ஆனால் தாங்களும் உயர்ந்து, வாழ்ந்து, தமிழகத்தையும் உயர்த்தி வாழவைத்து வருகிற ஒரே சமூகம் நகரத்தார் சமூகமாகும்.

இச்சமூகம் இன்றில்லாவிடில் பல திருக்கோயில்கள் பாழ்பட்டுப் போயிருக்கும். சில கோயில்களிலுள்ள விக்ரகங்களுக்கு தடவுவதற்குக் கூட எண்ணெய் கிடைக்காமல் போயிருக்கும். நகரத்தார் சமூகத்தினர்தான் இக்கோயில்கள் அனைத்தையும் கட்டிக் காத்து, வளர்த்து, சமயப் பணிகள் அனைத்தையும் செய்து கொண்டு வருகின்றனர்.

சமயப்பணிகள் மட்டுமல்ல; கல்விப்பணிகளிலும் தலை சிறந்து விளங்கும் சமூகமும் இதுவே. ஒரு தனிமனிதன் எவரிடமும் நன்கொடை எதுவும் பெறாமல், தன் சொந்தப் பணத்தைக் கொண்டே ஒரு பல்கலைக் கழகத்தை நிறுவிய பெருமை உலக வரலாற்றில் இல்லை. அப்பெருமையைப் பெற்றவர் முதலாம் செட்டிநாட்டரசர் இராஜா சர் அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியார் அவர்கள் மட்டுமே தான். இதைத் தொடர்ந்து காரைக்குடியிலும் மதுரையிலும் பல்கலைக் கழகங்கள் தோற்றுவித்த அருஞ்செயல்களின் புகழ், கோடி கொடுத்தும் குடியிருந்த வீடும் கொடுத்த கொடைவள்ளல் அழகப்பா அவர்களுக்கும், ஆலை அதிபர் கருமுத்து தியாகராயர் அவர்களுக்கும் உண்டு. இப்பெருமக்கள் மூவரும் தமிழகத்தில் எவருஞ்செய்யாத கல்விப் பணியைச் செய்த காரணத்தினால் "கல்வித் தந்தை" என்ற பெயரைப் பெற்றவர் இம்மும் மூர்த்திகளாவர்.

சமயத்தொண்டு, கல்வித் தொண்டு மட்டுமல்ல; பொருளாதாரத் தொண்டிலும் இறங்கி தமிழகத்தின் இரு கண்களாக விளங்குகிற இந்தியன் வங்கி, இந்தியன் ஓவர்சீஸ் வங்கி, ஆகிய இரண்டையும் தோற்றுவித்து பொருளாதாரத் துறையிலும் தமிழகத்தை உயர்த்திய பெருமையும், அத்துடன் மூன்றாவது நெற்றிக்கண் போன்ற மதுரை வங்கியையும் தோற்றுவித்து வளர்த்த பெருமையும் இச்சமூகத்தினர்க்கு மட்டுமே உண்டு.

தமிழ் தோன்றிய போதே தோன்றிய தமிழிசை தமிழகத்திலேயே அழிவதைக் கண்டு வருந்தி, அதைத் தடுத்து நிறுத்தி வளர்த்து வந்த பெருமை முதலாம் செட்டிநாட்டரசர்க்கு உண்டு. இன்றேல், தமிழிசையே அழிந்து போயிருக்கும்.

தன் தந்தை செய்து வந்த சமயத்தொண்டு கல்வித் தொண்டு. பொருளாதாரத் தொண்டு, தமிழிசைத்தொண்டு ஆகிய நான்கினையும் தொய்வு விழாமல் கட்டிக் காத்து வளர்த்து வந்த இரண்டாம் செட்டி நாட்டரசர் இராஜா சர் மு.அ. முத்தையாச் செட்டியார் அவர்களுடைய அருந்தொண்டுகளை தமிழகம் நன்கறியும்.

தன் தந்தை தோற்றுவித்த அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக் கழகத்தை ஏறத்தாழ முப்பது ஆண்டுகளுக்கு மேல் தொடர்ந்து நடத்தி, உயர்த்தி வெற்றி பெற்ற பெருமையும் இரண்டாம் செட்டிநாட்டரசர்க்கு உண்டு.

இந்த அளவோடு இல்லாமல் அரசியலிலும் புகுந்து நீதிக்கட்சியிலும் உறுப்பினராகி அமைச்சராகவும் அமர்ந்து தமிழகத்தை ஆட்சி செய்த பெருமையும் இரண்டாம் செட்டிநாட்டரசர்க்கு உண்டு.

எல்லாவற்றையும்விட தான் ஒரு அரச குடும்பத்தினன் என்ற எண்ணமே சிறிதும் இல்லாமல் ஏழை எளிய மக்களோடு அன்போடு பழகி, அனைவரோடும் மிக எளிமையான முறையில் வாழ்ந்து காட்டிய பெருமை பெரிதும் பாராட்டுதற்குரியதாகும்.

1938-ல் சென்னை உயர்நீதி மன்றக் கடற்கரையில் மாபெரும் இந்தி எதிர்ப்புக் கூட்டம் ஒன்று நடைபெற்றது. அதற்காக இராயபுரத்திலிருந்து கடற்கரை வரை உள்ள 5 மைல் தூரமும் பேரணியுடன் எவ்வளவு சொல்லியும் கேளாமல் இராஜா சர் முத்தையாச் செட்டியார் அவர்கள் எங்களோடு தொடர்ந்து நடந்து வந்ததைக் கண்டு அன்றும் வியப்புற்றேன். இன்னும் நினைவுகூர்ந்து வியப்புறுகிறேன்.

சென்னை நகரத்தை மாநகரமாக ஆக்க வேண்டும் என்ற எண்ணமே முதன் முதலில் தோன்றியது இராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்களுக்குத்தான். அதற்காகப் போராடி அமைக்க முயன்று, வெற்றியும் பெற்று, முதல் மேயரான பெருமையும்

அவருக்குத்தான் உண்டு. அவர் மேயராக இருந்த காலத்தில் நகரிலுள்ள சேரிகளை ஒழித்து சென்னை மாநகரை தூய்மைப்படுத்திய பெருமையும், வாரத்திற்கு ஒரு நாள் ஒவ்வொரு பகுதிக்கும் சென்று மக்களின் குறைகளைக் கேட்டு நிர்வாகத்தை நடத்திய பெருமையும், அக்காலத்தில் உள்ள எல்லா கட்சியினராலும் பாராட்டப் பெற்றவையாகும்.

இந்தி எதிர்ப்புத் துறையிலும், தமிழிசைத் துறையிலும், நீதிக்கட்சித் துறையிலும், என்னோடு நெருங்கி பழகி பணிபுரிந்த காட்சிகள் அனைத்தும் இன்றும் என் நினைவில் பசுமையாக இருந்து வருகின்றன. இவையனைத்தும் என்னால் மறக்க முடியாதவை, என்றும் நிலைத்து நிற்பவை.

சென்னை மாநகரத்தின் முதல் மேயராகத் திகழ்ந்த இராஜா சர், பத்ம பூஷணம் உயர்திரு எம்.ஏ. முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்களின் வெண்கல திருவுருவச் சிலையொன்று அண்மையில் மேயர் கட்டிட வளாகத்தில் அமைக்க இருக்கும் செய்தி மகிழ்ச்சியைத் தருகிறது. இது தமிழகத்தில் அவர் செய்த அரும்பணிகளுக்கு தமிழக மக்கள் செய்யும் நன்றிக் கடனாகும்.

இன்றுங்கூட இப்பணிகள் அனைத்தையும் மூன்றாம் செட்டி நாட்டரசர் எம்.ஏ.எம். இராமசாமி செட்டியார் அவர்கள் தொய்வின்றி நடத்தி வருவது தமிழக மக்களை மகிழ்வித்து வருகிறது. அடுத்த தலைமுறைகளிலும் அரச குடும்பத்தினர் இப்பணிகளைத் தொடர்ந்த நடத்தி வருவர் என்ற நம்பிக்கையும் எனக்கு உண்டு. தமிழும், தமிழினமும், தமிழகமும் உள்ள வரை செட்டி நாட்டரசர் குடும்பத்தினர் புகழ் என்றும் மறையாமல் நிலைத்து நிற்கும்.

GLORIFYING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THREE GENERATIONS

C.R. PATTABHI RAMAN
Former Union Minister

Dr. Muthiah and I had known each other and moved closely together for nearly fifty years. He was my senior in the Presidency college.

Born in a distinguished merchant prince family the Rajah's father was one of the few who were conferred the title of Rajah during the Pre-Independence days. As a philanthropist and educationist Dr. Muthiah's father covered himself with glory and he was one of the few Indians who founded an university - the Annamalai University. He told me when I returned from U.K. after my studies that he was getting details from the Ferguson College, Poona, for the settingup of the university. My father Dr. C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar and he were good friends. My father appeared for the Rajah in some litigations in Madras. It was at Rajah's request that my father agreed to accept the Vice-chancellorship of the Annamalai University. My father was also Chairman of the University Grants Commission. The magnificent Library in the University came into being then. It was named after my father.

When the Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru asked my father to take up the Vice-chancellorship of the Banaras University, my father explained that he would not desert the Annamalai University. The Prime Minister asked him to be Vice-chancellor for both the Universities - a record not equalled so far.

Rajah Muthiah's record of achievements was unique. Though under the shadow of the big banian tree of his father he grew up earning for himself a great name in his own right, for about 35 years he was Pro-Chancellor of the University.

It was very rare to witness a family glorying itself in achievements for three successive generations. The Rajah Annamalai and after him Rajah Muthiah and his son Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswami have taken the university to great heights. Today we have in addition the medical faculty functioning well.

Dr. Muthiah entered public life when he was barely twenty five and was just out of college. He was in the Municipal Council of Madras, the Board of Management of Pachiappa's Charities and in the old Legislative Council of the Madras Presidency. He was a Minister in the undivided Madras Presidency, member of the Constituent Assembly and he was a member of the Defence Council under British rule and in that capacity he was the Pro-chancellor of the Madras University.

A person with so many credits the Rajah Saheb was courteous to a fault maintaining the Chettinad family trait of being great hosts. He kept up dignity and decorum when dealing with persons high and low. His great work for the promotion of the glories of Tamil Literature will always be remembered by Tamilians all over the world.

The Rajah was the last President and the First Mayor of Madras when it became a Corporation. It is a fitting tribute to his competency and virtues that a statue is being put up in the Ripon building complex. By honouring his memory we are honouring ourselves.

மேயர் பதவிக்கு பொலிவூட்டிய செட்டிநாட்டரசர்

ம.பொ. சிவஞானம்

செட்டிநாட்டரசர் ராஜா சர் எம்.ஏ. முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்களை நினைக்கும்பொழுது என் போன்ற நீண்ட கால அரசியல் வாழ்வில் நிலைத்திருப்பவர்களுக்கு சென்னை மாநகராட்சியில் அவர் கொண்டிருந்த தொடர்பு நினைவுக்கு வராமல் போகாது.

அவர் சென்னை மாநகராட்சியோடு நீண்ட காலம் தொடர்பு கொண்டிருந்தார். மாநகராட்சியின் தலைவர் என்றாலே "மேயர்" - என்னும் சிறப்புப் பெயர்தான் நினைவுக்கு வரும். ஆனால், இந்தப் பெயர் வழக்கத்திற்கு வரும் முன்பு தலைவர் என்றே அழைக்கப்பட்டு வந்தனர். அந்த வகையில் பார்த்தால் சென்னை மாநகராட்சியில் கடைசித் தலைவராகவும் முதல் மேயராகவும் இருந்த பெருமை டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ.முத்தையா செட்டியாருக்குத்தான் உண்டு.

தலைவர் என்னும் பெய்ரை "மேயர்" என்று மாற்றி அவரை முதல் மேயராகச் செய்தார் அவரது தந்தையார் ராஜா சர் அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியார். அதுமட்டுமல்ல, தலைவர் என்ற பெயர் வழக்கத்திலிருந்தபோது சாதாரண நாற்காலிதான் அந்தப் பதவிக்குரிய ஆசனமாக இருந்தது. ஆனால், டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ.முத்தையா செட்டியார் முதல் மேயராக ஆனபோது அவர் அமர்வதற்கென்றே அழகிய சிம்மாசனம் போன்று நாற்காலி தயாரிக்கப்பட்டது. அத்துடனின்றி மேயர் அணிவதற்கென்றே தங்கத்தால் செய்த மாலையொன்றும் (செயின்) உருவாக்கப்பட்டது. "தலைவர் அவர்களே!" - என்று உறுப்பினர்கள் அழைக்கும் வழக்கம் மாறி "வணக்கத்திற்குரிய மேயர் அவர்களே!" - என்று அழைப்பதும் பிற்காலத்தில் நடைமுறைக்கு வந்தது. தன் புகழ் உயர்வதற்காகவன்றி, தமிழ்நாட்டின் தலைநகரான சென்னை மாநகராட்சியின் புகழ் உயர்வதற்காக இந்த மாறுதல்களைச் செய்தார்.

மேயர் அணிவதற்கென்று கறுப்புப் பட்டாடையிலான கம்பீர அகுழடைய "கவுன்" ஒன்றும் தயாரிக்கப்பட்டது. ஆம், சிம்மாசனம்-தங்கச்செயின்-கறுப்புப் பட்டாடையிலான கவுன். இவ்வளவும் அணிந்ததால்தான் "மேயர்" - என்ற பெயருக்கு ஒரு அழகு ஏற்பட்டது. மற்ற மாநிலங்களின் தலைநகர மாநகரார்ட்சிகளும் இந்த முறையை பின்பற்றினவென்றால் அது தமிழர் பெருமைப் படத்தக்கதுதானே.

டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ.முத்தையா செட்டியார் மேயர் பதவி வகித்தபோது, சென்னை மாநகராட்சியில் அங்கத்தினர்களாக இருந்தவர்களும் உலகப் புகழ் பெற்றவர்களாக ஒளி வீசினார்கள். நாவலர் எஸ்.சத்தியமூர்த்தி ஐயர், சர் ஏ.இராமசாமி முதலியார் ஜனாப் அப்துல் அமீத்கான், பின்னாளில் சென்னை மாகாணத்தின் தற்காலிக ஆளுநர் பதவி வகித்த சர் முகமது உஸ்மான் ஆகியோரெல்லாம் சென்னை மாநகராட்சியில் உறுப்பினர்களாக இருந்தார்களென்றால், அது ராஜா சர் எம்.ஏ.முத்தையா செட்டியார் மேயர் பதவி வகித்த காலம். அந்த காலம் வருமா என்பது ஐயப்பாடே. அத்தகைய மாமனிதருக்கு சென்னை மாநகராட்சி முகப்பிலே உருவச்சிலை நிறுவப்படுவது எனக்கு மிகுந்த மகிழ்ச்சியைத் தருகிறது. எனக்கு மட்டுமல்ல, நாட்டினுள்ள மக்களெல்லாம் மகிழ்ச்சியடைவார்கள் என்பதில் ஐயமில்லை.

அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழக இணைவேந்தரும் டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ.முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்களுடைய திருமகனுமான டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ.எம்.ராமசாமி அவர்கள் காலத்தில் அவருடைய முயற்சியால் மாநகராட்சி முகப்பில் உருவச்சிலை நிறுவவுது "இவன் தந்தை என்னோற்றான் கொல்" - என்னும் வள்ளுவர் வாசகத்தை நினைவூட்டுகிறது.

சென்னை மாநகராட்சியின் முதல் இந்தியத் தலைவரான சர் பி.டி.தியாகராய செட்டியாருடைய் உருவச்சிலை ஒருபுறமும், நாட்டின் விடுதலைக்கு பாடுபட்டு உயிர்த்தியாகம் புரிந்த நாவலர் எஸ். சத்தியமூர்த்தி ஐயர் அவர்களின் திருவுருவச்சிலை இன்னொருபுறமும் ரிப்பன் கட்டிடத்தின் முகப்பிலே இருப்பதோடு, இளந்தலைமுறை முதிய தலைமுறைக்கு ஆற்றும் நன்றிக் கடனாக தமது தந்தையரின் உருவச்சிலையை டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ.எம்.ராமசாமி அவர்கள் நிறுவுவது சாலச்சிறந்ததாகும்.

A MULTICOLOURED PERSONALITY

T. CHENGALVAROYAN
Senior Advocate

Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad is a name that comes to my mind with many sanctifying associations and elevated memorials. I had the good fortune of meeting great and good men, who were leaders of thought and action. One of those was Dr. Sir Rajah Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad. His was a personality multicoloured in splendour and techni-coloured in grandeur.

Born with a golden spoon in his mouth his aristocracy almost reaching royalty was imperceptable for he never showed himself in that awesome manner. More than the Palace of Chettinad, his hear was much more palatial, where everybody was received, seated, treated, heard and sent with all the warmth and affection.

His kindness was beyond description. His nobility was sublime. His charity knew no bounds. His patronage was proverbial. His friendship was legendary. His ability was many-sided. His love for Tamil was deep and dedicated. His life was a liberalisation of all things good, great and godly in man.

It was a strange irony that took me to meet him. I was asked by my Congress friends to stand for the Mayoralty of Madras. I agreed to do so. It so happened that Rajah Saheb's brother, my good and esteemed friend, Mr. Ramanatha chettiar also desired to be put up as a candidate in the party. I was defeated in the party. The next chance came and my friends insisted that I should stand on. I consented to do so. That time my another good friend Mr. Ramaswamy Naidu was put up who was stated to have the blessings of Rajah Saheb and my good leader Sri Kamaraj. That time also I was defeated. The next chance came and all my Congress friends out of sympathy organised to put me up in the

party as a Mayoral candidate. I did not give my consent. I said I would agree after I meet Rajah Saheb. I went straight to the Chettinad Palace and with bated breath and humbleness I stepped in and was warmly greeted by the Rajah Saheb. He insisted that I should sit and I was almost buried in the silken soft sofa. I began "I have come to know whether Mr. M.A.Chidambaram Chettiar, your brother, is going to be put up as a candidate. If so, I will step out and leave the contest". The great Raja Saheb said "Yes, my brother is going to be put up and you are that brother". So saying he gave me leave to go and he came upto the steps down in the portico. That was the beginning of our long and enduring friendship.

Rajah Saheb was well known for the bringing up his friends in many ways. H made me a member of the Syndicate of the Annamalai University when Dr. Sir C.P. Ramasamy Iyer was the Vice - Chancellor. I came to know how much Rajah Saheb worked his whole time to the University. It was his midnight dream and it was his wakening theme. He not only left the legacy of the Annamalai University but also kept his heir Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy to carry on the vargetical mission.

There was another incident which shows Rajah Saheb's greatness. One day on the morning at 9 A.M. a huge blank Swan like Austin car came and stopped at my house. I knew it was Rajah Saheb's car. I rushed to the gate and Rajah Saheb gently got down saying " I have come to meet you". So saying he entered my house. I received him with folded hands and taking his seat he said "I have come to request you to agree to become a Director of the Indian Bank". I stammered "Sir, I have no qualifying shares ....". Rajah Saheb told me "All that has been arranged. Your consent is requested". I did so as he desired. I can bear personal testimony to the most meticulous way he used to conduct the Branch meeting, every item he will read and invite opinion of every member. On one occasion there was a loan application for a

huge project and called the Secretary to call for it and then put up before the Board. No report came forth. It was rather amazing that he could know all the antecedents of persons. The only guiding principle for him was the interest of the Bank. That was an epic example of public institution management.

Rajah Saheb's love for and devotion to Tamil is almost proverbial. His patronage for the propagation for Tamil was singular and sincere. His part in Tamil Isai Movement was historic. Many vidwans and musicians would have been buried in the timbo of oblivion, if it were not for Rajah saheb's encouragement and help.

In him one cannot find the annoyance and aloofness of artsticracy. In him instead we find humility and grace of friendship to every one. His hospitality knew no bounds. His charity has no frontiers. His friendship has no parallel. His goodness has no limits. He would receive the visitors with long stretched open arms and he would come down to the portion to see the visitor. He is a gem of purest ray serene, born to shed the bright illumination to all dark and dim pathway of life, so that generation after generation could walk on the perilous path of life with faith in his providence.

என் நெஞ்சில் இடம் கொண்ட
ராஜா ஸர் முத்தையா செட்டியார்
டாக்டர் நா. மகாலிங்கம்

நகரம் என்றால் வாணிகம் என்று பொருள். நகரத்தார் என்றால் வணிகர்கள் என்றுதான் அர்த்தம்.

வாணிகம் செய்வார்க்கு வாணிகம் பேணிப்
பிறவும் தம்போல் செயின்

என்ற பாடலுக்கு இலக்கியமாக வாழ்பவர் நகரத்தார்கள். திரைகடல் ஓடித் திரவியம் தேடியவர்கள்.

நகரம் என்றால் கோயில் என்றும் ஒரு பொருள் உண்டு.

கோயில்கள் நிறுவி, சிவத்தொண்டு செய்வதில் நாட்டுக் கோட்டை நகரத்தார்களுக்கு நிகர் அவர்களே!

நகரத்தார்கள் இன்று புதுக்கோட்டை, பசும்பொன், இராமநாதபுரம் மாவட்டங்களில் பரவி வாழ்கிறார்கள்.

மலேசியா, சிங்கப்பூர், பர்மா, இலங்கை, இந்தோனேசியா முதலிய வெளிநாடுகளில் ஒரு காலத்தில் கொடிகட்டிப் பறந்த வியாபாரம் இவர்களுடையதுதான்.

ஒன்பது கோயில்களுக்கு உரியவர்கள். அவர்களிடையில் பல கோத்திரங்கள் உண்டு. அவைகள் ஒன்பது கோயில் பிரிவுகளில் அடங்கி விடுகின்றன. மாத்தூர், இளையாத்தங்குடி, பிள்ளை யார்பட்டி, நேமம், வயிரவன் கோயில், இரணி கோயில் முதலிய ஒன்பது கோயில்களில் குடிமக்களாகவே இவர்கள் வாழ்ந்து வருகிறார்கள்.

அவர்களில் மகா ஞானியாகவும், சித்த புருஷராகவும் விளங்கிய பட்டினத்தார் வழியில் தோன்றிய குடும்பத்தார், இன்றும் பட்டினத்துச்சாமி குடும்பத்தார் என்றே அழைக்கப் பெறுகிறார்கள்.

ராஜா சர் அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியார் அவர்கள் பட்டினத்துச்சாமி குடும்ப வழியினர்தாம்.

இப்போது சென்னை மாநகராட்சியில் கம்பீரமாக இருக்கும் மேயர் அமரும் நாற்காலியும், மேயர் அறையும், தங்கச் சங்கிலியும், செங்கோலும் ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் சென்னை நகரசபைக்கு வழங்கிய கொடையாகும்.

அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் 1929ஆம் ஆண்டில் உருவாயிற்று. அதே ஆண்டு அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியாருக்கு ராஜா சர் விருது வழங்கப்பெற்றது.

முத்தையா குமார ராஜா ஆனார். 25ஆவது வயதிலேயே பிரிக்கப்படாத சென்னை மாநில கவுன்சில் உறுப்பினராகத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டார். 1941 முதல் 1946 வரை மூன்று முறை புதுதில்லி பாதுகாப்பு கவுன்சில் உறுப்பினராகப் பணியாற்றினார்.

அந்தக்காலத்தில் அகில இந்திய மருத்துவப் பணி டாக்டர்களுக்கு இணையாக மாநில மருத்துவப்பணி டாக்டர்களுக்கும் தகுதி பெற்றுத் தந்தது ராஜா முத்தையவேளின் சாதனை ஆகும்.

நீதிக்கட்சி சார்பில் அமைந்த மந்திரி சபையில் அமைச்சர் பதவி வகித்தார். கல்வி, பொதுநலம், சுங்கத் தீர்வைத்துறை ஆகியவை இவர் பொறுப்பில் இருந்தன.

சென்னைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் இணைவேந்தராக ஓராண்டு சிறந்த முறையில் பணியாற்றினார்.

தென்இந்திய வணிகக் கழகத்தின் தலைவராக இருந்தார். ஐம்பதாண்டுகள் தொடர்ந்து அதனோடு தொடர்பு கொண்டும் இருந்தார்.

இந்திய நாட்டுப் பொருளாதார வித்தகர்ளில் ஒருவராக விளங்கினார். பச்சையப்பர் அறக்கட்டளையில் 33 ஆண்டுகள் தொடர்பு கொண்டு இருந்தார். சென்னை ஜார்ஜ் டவுனிலிருந்த பச்சையப்பன் கல்லூரி, சேத்துப்பட்டில் இருக்கும் பச்சையப்பன் கல்லூரிக்கட்டடத்துக்கு அவர் காலத்தில்தான் மாற்றப்பட்டது. புதுக் கட்டடத்திற்கு ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் செய்த உதவி நாடறிந்தது.

பச்சையப்பன் கல்லூரி அறக்கட்டளையில் தலைவராகவும் சிறப்பாகப் பணி ஆற்றினார். காஞ்சிபுரத்தில் பச்சையப்பன் கல்லூரி உருவாவதற்கும் ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார்

அவர்களின் பெருமுயற்சிதான் காரணம். அவருடைய முயற்சியால் பலப்பல உயர்நிலைப் பள்ளிகள் உருவாயின.

பிரிட்டிஷ் ஆட்சியின் போது ராஜாஜி தலைமையில் சென்னையில் காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை உருவானபோது ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் எதிர்க்கட்சித் தலைவராக இருந்தார். ராஜாஜி மந்திரி சபை ராஜினாமா செய்தவுடன் அமைக்கப்பட்ட இடைக்கால மந்திரி சபையில் உள்ளாட்சித்துறை, மற்றும் அறநிலையத்துறை அமைச்சராகப் பணியாற்றினார்.

இந்தியப் பாதுகாப்புச்சபை உறுப்பினராக 1941ஆம் ஆண்டில் நியமிக்கப்பட்டார். 1946ஆம் ஆண்டில் இந்திய அரசியல் நிர்ணய சபையில் உறுப்பினரானார்.

தமிழிசை வளர்ச்சியில் தனியாத ஆர்வம் உடையவராக விளங்கினார்.

சென்னையில் அண்ணாமலை மன்றம் உருவாயிற்று. அதன் ஆதரவில் இசை விழாக்களும், பண்ணாராய்ச்சி மாநாடுகளும் இப்போதும் நடைபெற்று வருகின்றன.

ராஜா சர் அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியார் அமரத்வம் பெற்ற பிறகு அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழக இணைவேந்தர் பொறுப்பை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டார். பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் பொறுப்பான பல பணிகளை இவர் நேரிடையாகக் கவனித்தார். மிகச் சிறந்த அறிஞர் பெருமக்கள் அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத் துணைவேந்தர்களாகத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டார்கள்.

அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் வெள்ளி விழாவைக் கோலாகலமாக நடத்தினார்.

இவருடைய இசைப் பணியைப் பாராட்டி தமிழக முதல்வராக இருந்த எம்.ஜி.ஆர். அவர்கள் ராஜா சர் முத்தையா அவர்களுக்குத் 'தமிழிசைக் காவலர்' பட்டத்தைத் தந்து சிறப்பித்தார்.

அவருடைய வணிகத்துறை செயல்பாடுகளில் ஸ்டேட் பாங்கு வளர்ச்சியும், இந்தியன் வங்கியும் முக்கிய இடம் பெறுகின்றன.

இந்தியன் வங்கியின் டைரக்டராகவும், சேர்மனாகவும் பணியாற்றி, அந்த வங்கியை இந்தியாவின் தலைசிறந்த

வங்கிகளில் ஒன்றாக உயர்த்தினார். ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் காலத்தில்தான் இந்தியன் வங்கி பொன் விழாக் கொண்டாடியது.

ராஜா சர் முத்தைய வேளின் சேவையைப் பாராட்டி இந்திய அரசு அவருக்கு 1973ஆம் ஆண்டில் பத்மபூஷன் விருது வழங்கிச் சிறப்பித்தது.

நாற்பதாண்டுகாலம் தமிழக சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினராக இருந்த பெருமை இவருக்கே உரியது.

சென்னை சட்டமன்றத்தில் 1952ஆம் ஆண்டில் முத்தையவேள் அங்கத்தினராக இருந்தபோது மேற்கே போகும் நதிகள் சிலவற்றை டன்னல் மூலம் கிழக்கே திருப்பவேண்டும், காவேரியில் அவற்றை இணைத்துத் தமிழ் நாட்டின் தண்ணீர் பற்றாக்குறையைத் தீர்க்கவேண்டும் என்று அவர் பேசி இருக்கிறார்.

கேரளத்தில் எல்லா நதிகளுமே வற்றாத ஜீவ நதிகள். அவற்றில் தேவைக்குப் போக முக்கால் பங்கு மேற்குக் கடலில் கலந்து வீணாகிறது.

அன்று சட்டமன்றத்தில் சொன்ன முத்தையவேள் அவர்களின் கோரிக்கையை இப்போது செயல்படுத்தினால்கூட பாசனம், குடிநீர்ப் பற்றாக் குறையுள்ள தமிழகத்துக்கு அது ஒரு வரப்பிரசாதமாக அமையும் என்பதில் சந்தேகமே இல்லை.

உலக நாடுகள் அனைத்தும் சென்று ஆங்காங்குள்ள தொழில் நுட்பங்கள், கல்வி, அரசியல் தொடர்பான செய்திகள் அனைத்தும் கண்டறிந்தார். நம்முடைய நாட்டில் அவை பயன்பட வேண்டும் என்று விரும்பினார்.

முத்தையவேளின் மணி விழா 1965ஆம் ஆண்டில் கோலாகலமாகச் செட்டிநாட்டில் நடைபெற்றது. பழைமையின் பெருமையும் புதுமையின் பொலிவும் மிகுந்த அந்த விழாவுக்கு வந்திருந்த பெருமக்கள் தொகை எண்ணிலடங்காது.

ராஜா முத்தையவேளின் புதல்வர் இருவர். அவர்களில் இளையவர் டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ.எம். ராமசாமி. அவர் தம்முடைய முன்னோர் வழியில் வணிக வேந்தராக விளங்கி வருகிறார். அத்துடன் அண்ணாமலைப் பல்லைக்கழகத்தின் இணைவேந்த ராகவும் தமிழிசை வளர்க்கும் கலைவேந்தராகவும், கொடை வள்ளலாகவும் திகழ்ந்து வருகிறார்.

ராஜா சர் முத்தைய செட்டியர்ர் நண்பர்களை அன்போடும், ஆதரவோடும், கனிவோடும் வரவேற்கும் பாங்கும், விடைகொடுக்கும் அழகும் அவருடன் பழகியவர்களால் மறக்கவே இயலாதவை.

அவருடைய உபசரிப்பு யாரையும் அவரிடம் தோழமை கொள்ளும்படிச் செய்துவிடும். தம் இல்லத்துக்கு வந்தவர்களிடம் அவர் பழகும் முறைக்கு நிகர் இல்லவே இல்லை. இது பரம்பரைக் குணம் என்றுதான் சொல்லவேண்டும்.

அவரிடத்தில் செல்வம் இருந்தது. ஆடம்பரமில்லை. தாராள மனப்பான்மை இருந்தது. தற்பெருமை இல்லை. அவருடைய அன்பையும் நட்பையும் பெற்றவர்கள் எல்லாத் துறைகளிலும் இருந்தார்கள்.

தம் தந்தையாரிடம் நிரம்ப பக்தி உடையவர் ராஜா சர் முத்தையா.

தந்தையைப்போல உழைக்கவேண்டும், தொண்டு செய்யவேண்டும் என்று தம் வாழ்நாள் முழுவதும் உழைத்தவர்.

உரைவேந்தர் ஔவை துரைசாமிப் பிள்ளையவர்களைக் கொண்டு திருவருட்பாவில் இருக்கும் எட்டாயிரம் செய்யுளுக்கும் உரை எழுதச் செய்யவேண்டும் என்று விரும்பினேன். என் விருப்பத்தை ஔவை துரைசாமிப்பிள்ளை நிறைவேற்றினார்.

ஏழு ஆண்டுகள் பொள்ளாச்சியிலும், மதுரையிலுமாகத் தங்கி, திருஅருட்பா பாடல் முழுவதற்கும் அருமையான உரை எழுதினார். அதற்குப் பல லட்ச ரூபாய் செலவு ஆயிற்று. திருஅருட்பா உரை மிக நன்றாக அமைந்தது.

இராமலிங்கர் பணிமன்றத்தின் மூலமாக வெளியிட வேண்டும் என்று நினைத்துக் கொண்டு இருந்தேன்.

தமிழுக்காகவே அமைந்த அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் மூலமாக வெளிவந்தால் இன்னும் சிறப்பாக இருக்கும் என்று எண்ணினேன்.

என்னுடைய எண்ணத்தை அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழக இணைவேந்தர் ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியாரிடம் தெரிவித்தேன். அதை அவர் மிகுந்த மகிழ்ச்சியுடன்

அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் மூலமாக வெளியிடுவதற்கு ஏற்றுக்கொண்டார்.

பத்து வால்யூம் கொண்ட திருஅருட்பா உரையின் தட்டச்சுப் பிரதிகளை ஒரு காரில் ஏற்றிக்கொண்டேன். என் புதல்வர் களையும் அழைத்துக்கொண்டேன். அடையாறில் இருக்கும் செட்டிநாட்டு அரண்மனைக்குச் சென்றேன்.

ராஜா சர் அவர்களுக்கு மலர் மாலை அணிவித்து திருஅருட்பா உரை தட்டச்சுப் பிரதிகள் பத்து வால்யூம்களையும் அவரிடம் இராமலிங்கர் பணிமன்றத்தின் காணிக்கையாகச் சமர்ப்பித்தேன்.

அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் மூலமாக விரைவில் வெளியிடுகிறேன் என்று சொன்னார்.

எத்தனையோ பேர் பல லட்சம் ரூபாய்கள் அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்துக் நன்கொடைகள் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அவையெல்லாம் மகாலிங்கம் கொடுத்த இந்தத் திருவருட்பாக் கொடைக்கு ஈடாகாது என்று பல இடங்களில் சொல்லிச் சொல்லிப் பாராட்டினார்.

தாம் செல்லும் இடங்களிலெல்லாம் அந்த திருஅருட்பா உரை பற்றியும், வெளியீடு பற்றியும் என்னைப் பற்றியும் முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்கள் பெருமையாகப் பேசிக்கொண்டு இருந்தார். நான் செய்த எளிய சேவையை வெகுவாகப் பாராட்டிப் பெருமைப்படுத்தினார்.

பெரிய மனது அவருக்கு. கொடையாளி.

நான் அவரைக் காணச் செல்லும்போதெல்லாம் தம் அரண்மனை வாசலுக்குவந்து தாமே கார் கதவைத் திறந்து வரவேற்பார். உபசரிப்பில் திளைக்க வைத்திடுவார். அவருடன் பேசிக்கொண்டு இருக்கும்போது நாட்டின் வளர்ச்சியைப் பற்றியே பேசுவார்.

அவரிடம் இருந்து விடைபெறும்போது அரண்மனை வாசல் வரை வந்து காரின் கதவைத் தாமே திறந்து நான் காருக்குள் அமர்ந்ததும் கைகூப்பி வணங்கி வழியனுப்பி வைப்பார்.

சென்னையில் இராமலிங்கர் பணிமன்றம் நடத்தும் இசைக்கலை விழாக்களில் கலந்து கொள்வார்.

இந்த விழாவைத் தம் சொந்த விழாவைப்போல் மதித்து ராஜா சர் அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியாரின் நினைவு அறக்கட்டளையுடன் இணைந்து நடத்துவோம் என்றார்.

இசைக்கலை விழா நடைபெறும் எட்டு நாட்களும் ராணி சீதை மன்றத்தை இலவசமாக வழங்கி வந்தார். தொடர்ந்து ஆண்டுதோறும் இசைக்கலை விழாவை அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியார் நினைவு அறக்கட்டளையும் இணைந்து நடத்துவதற்கும் ஏற்பாடு செய்த பெருமகனார் ராஜா சர் அவர்கள். அதுமட்டும் அல்லாமல் பாரதியார் சங்கத்திற்கும் பாரதியார் விழாவை செப்டம்பர் 11,12 தேதிகளில் ராணி சீதை மன்றத்தில் நடப்பதற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்த பெருந்தகை.

முத்தையவேளின் குமாரர் டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ.எம். ராமசாமி அவர்கள் இந்த இசை விழாக்களுக்குத் தந்தையையும் விஞ்சிப் பல உதவிகள் செய்து வருகிறார் என்பதை இங்குக் குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன்.

மதுரைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் முதல் துணைவேந்தராக இருந்தவர் டாக்டர் தெ.பொ. மீனாட்சி சுந்தரனார்.

அவர் மறைவுக்கு இரங்கல் தெரிவிக்க சென்னை ராஜாஜி ஹாலில் ஒரு இரங்கல் கூட்டம் நடைபெற்றது.

அந்தக் கூட்டத்தில் ராஜா சர் முத்தையவேள் அவர்களும் அமைச்சர் வீரப்பன் அவர்களும், இன்னும் பல அறிஞர்களும் கலந்து கொண்டார்கள். அந்தக் கூட்டத்தில் நானும் பங்கு கொண்டேன்.

அந்தக் கூட்டத்தில் மதுரை காமராஜர் பல்கலை வளாகத்தில் டாக்டர் தெ.பொ. மீனாட்சி சுந்தரனாருக்கு சிலை எடுக்க வேண்டும் என்று தீர்மானம் நிறைவேற்றினார்கள்.

நான் முதல்வரைக் கலந்துகொண்டு தெ.பொ.மீக்கு சிலை எடுக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்கிறேன் என்றார் அமைச்சர் வீரப்பன்.

இதைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்த ராஜா சர் முத்தையவேள், "டாக்டர் தெ.பொ.மீக்கு சிலை எடுப்பதற்காகத் தமிழக முதல்வரை அமைச்சர் நாட வேண்டுமா? தெ.பொ.மீ.பெயரில் ஒரு கோடி இரண்டு கோடி செலவில் தமிழ் வளர்ச்சிக்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்வதுதான் தமிழக அரசுக்குப் பெருமை" என்று சொன்னார்.

பிறகு என்னிடம் வந்தார். "நாம் இருவரும் சேர்ந்து டாக்டர் தெ.பொ.மீ.க்கு மதுரைப் பல்கலை வளாகத்தில் சிலை எடுத்து விடுவோம்? என்ன சொல்கிறீர்கள்" என்றார்.

நானும் சரி என்று ஒப்புக்கொண்டேன்.

சிலை எடுப்பதற்கான செலவில் ராஜா முத்தையவேளும், நானும் ஆளுக்குப் பாதி செலவை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு மதுரை காமராஜர் பல்கலை வளாகத்தில் ஏழடி உயரமுள்ள கம்பீரமான வெண்கலச் சிலையை டாக்டர் தெ.பொ.மீ. அவர்களுக்கு எடுத்தோம்.

தமிழ் வளர்த்த சான்றோர்களைப் போற்றுவதில் ராஜா முத்தையவேள் துடிப்புடன் இருந்து செயல்பட்டு வந்தார்.

மதுரையில் சென்னை அண்ணாமலை மன்றம் போல் ஒரு மன்றம் அமைய வேண்டுமென்று முத்தையவேள் விரும்பினார்.

தமிழகமே நன்றிக் கண்ணோடு போற்ற வேண்டிய தமிழ்க்கலை வளர்ச்சிப் பணிக்குத் தாம் ஒருவராகவே பொருட் செலவு செய்தல் கூடாது என்று ராஜா சர் முத்தைய செட்டியார் எண்ணி இருக்கிறார். பொள்ளாச்சிக்கு என் வீடு தேடித் தாமே வந்தார். நன்கொடையாளர் பகுதியில் நானும் இருக்க வேண்டும் என்று கூறினார். மிகுந்த மகிழ்ச்சியுடன் ஒப்புக்கொண்டேன்.

ராஜா சர் தொலைபேசியில் என்னைக் கூப்பிட்டுச் சொன்னாலே போதும். நான் நிறைவேற்றி இருப்பேன்.

ராஜா சர் அவர்களின் குடும்பம் தமிழ் மரபைப் பேணிக் பாதுகாத்து வருகிறது. பாரம்பரியமாக அவர் குடும்பம் அதைக் கடைப்பிடித்து வந்து கொண்டு இருக்கிறது. வாழ்க்கையில் முத்தையவேள் கடைப்பிடித்து வந்த இந்த உயர்ந்த பண்பாட்டை எண்ணி எண்ணி வியப்படைகிறேன்.

பொள்ளாச்சியில் தமிழ்ச் சங்கம் அமைத்து நடத்தி வருகிறேன். அதன் ஆண்டு விழா ஒன்றுக்கு ராஜா சர் தலைமை தாங்கவேண்டும் என்று தமிழ்ச் சங்க நிர்வாகிகள் எல்லாரும் விரும்பினார்கள்.

பொள்ளாச்சி தமிழ்ச்சங்க நிர்வாகிகளின் விருப்பத்தை ராஜா சர் அவர்களிடம் தெரிவித்தேன். அடுத்த கணமே வருவதாக

ஒப்புக்கொண்டார். தம்முடைய எண்பதாவது வயதில் மிகுந்த உற்சாகத்துடன் பொள்ளாச்சிக்கு வந்து தமிழ்ச்சங்க விழாவில் கலந்துகொண்டார்.

தமிழிசையின் சிறப்பையும், பொள்ளாச்சி தமிழிசைச் சங்கத்தின் சேவையையும் வெகுவாகப் பாராட்டிப் பேசினார்.

கோபியில் நான் நடத்திய விழாவுக்கும் ராஜா சர் அவர்களை அழைத்தேன்.

அந்த விழாவிலும் தம்முடைய உடல் நலத்யையும் பாராமல் கலந்துகொண்டு சிறப்பித்தார்.

இப்படி, பல வழிகளில் தம்முடைய பெருங்குணத்தினாலும், வள்ளல் தன்மையாலும் என்னைக் கவர்ந்திருக்கிறார்.

இளம் வயதில் சென்னை நகரத்தின் முதல் மேயராகப் பணியாற்றிய ராஜா சர் முத்தைவேள் அவர்களுக்குச் சென்னை நகரசபை வளாகத்திலேயே சிலை எடுப்பது மிகப் பொருத்தம்.

முத்தையவேள் உயர்ந்த மனிதர். தீர்க்க ஆலோசனையாளர், தமிழ்நாட்டின் தலைநகராக சென்னை இருப்பதற்குத் தொடர்ந்து முயன்று வெற்றி பெற்றவர்களில் குறிப்பிடத்தக்கவர் ராஜா சர் முத்தையவேள் அவர்கள்.

அவருக்கு நகரசபை வளாகத்தில் மட்டும் சிலை எடுத்தால் போதாது. சென்னை நகரின் மையப்பகுதியிலும் அவருக்கு சிலை எடுத்துப்போற்ற வேண்டும்.

THE GREAT SON OF A GREAT FATHER

P.R. RAMASUBRAHMANEYA RAJHA

C M D, Madras Cements Limited

I have great pleasure in offering my tributes to the memory of Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar on the occasion of the unveiling of his Statue in Ripon Buildings, the seat of Madras Corporation. Dr. Chettiar was the First Mayor of Madras when Madras Municipality was upgraded as a Corporation in 1932. He was elected as Mayor again in 1934 and held the post with great distinction and dignity. It was during his Mayoralty that the tradition of rotating the mayorial post among all the communities to ensure communal harmony was brought into force by his efforts. His two illustrious brothers have also adorned the Mayorship of Madras. It was Dr. Rajah Saheb who was instrumental in establishing the City Improvement Trust for the orderly and planned development of Madras City. He was also instrumental in improving the Water Supply to Madras City by getting the Satyamurthy Sagar Scheme completed early. It is only fit and proper that the memory of such an illustrious personality is perpetuated by erecting his Statue in the Ripon Buildings where the first experiment in local self government was implemented by the British.

He was a Minister in Madras Government before Independence and the Leader of the Opposition during the Congress regime in 1937-39 and his ministerial and legislative achiements were praiseworthy.

My revered father Sri P.A.C. Ramasamy Raja had been a good friend of Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar and our two famillites were having close contacts all along. Our relationship became closer when Indian Bank helped us to establish Rajapalayam Mills Ltd. in 1938 and later on Indian Bank, as the sole bankers for Madras Cements Ltd. helped us in many ways.

I had on many occasions met Rajah Saheb and was privileged to enjoy his hospitality. I always found him a generous and courteous host and our acquaintance developed into warm personal friendship. He graced the grand function of the unveiling of the Statue of my revered father by Sri V.V. Giri, the then President of India in 1971 in Rajapalayam and released the special souvenir published on the occasion.

Dr. Rajah Saheb, as he was popularly and affectionately called, inherited the noblest tradition of the Nagarathar Community of Striving, Saving and Serving and he lived up to the reputation of his distinguished father. He encouraged and helped all worthy causes. He carried on in an exemplary manner the various philanthropic, educational, cultural and other activities of his distinguished father.

Annamalai University is a standing monument to the munificence and vision of Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar and it achieved phenomenal growth under the parental care and devotion of Dr. Muthiah Chettiar and today it is recognised as one of the foremost Universities in India.

A chip of the old block Dr. Rajah Saheb, as Chairman of Indian Bank promoted by his father, rendered commendable service for the progress of trade, commerce and industry in Tamilnadu and the Bank achieved a place of pride and eminence in the Banking Industry under his stewardship.

He founded Chettinad Cements and thereby established the first worthwhile heavy industry and made it a great success. The factory gave gainful employment for thousands of people in that area.

His great love of Tamil language, arts and literature made him develop the Tamil Isai Sangam founded by his illustrious father to blossom as an important centre of art and culture in Madras. A towering and dynamic personality, well informed and farsighted, he was a benefactor of all worthy causes. He took keen interest in

public affairs and was actively associated with a number of social and cultural organisations throughout the State.

As a social benefactor, educationist, banker, industrialist, statesman, Dr. Rajah Saheb's achievements are truly impressive and he will be remembered for the warmth of friendliness that he radiated as a person. His life is a shining example for businessmen of outstanding calibre to actively participate in the affairs of the society and contribute for its progress.

On this happy occasion of the unveiling of his Statue, I join his many friends and admirers in paying my tributes to his memory.

A GRAND ACHIEVER IN WIDE-RANGING AREAS

Dr. A. GNANAM

Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry University

I am most happy to learn that a life-size statue of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar is due to be unveiled within the Ripon Buildings complex on 21st October 1994 to commemorate the historic event of the completion of sixty years since he became the first Mayor of the Corporation of Madras and that a souvenir is to be brought out on this occasion.

As one associated for a long time with the very distinguished Department of Botany of Annamalai University to which a glowing tribute is paid in the latest novel of Saul Bellow titled More Die of Heartbreak, I would like to pay my homage to an eminent personality, who as the Pro-Chancellor of the University guided its destiny during its formative years.

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar lived a full life combining in himself successfully the diverse roles of industrialist, educationist, philanthropist and statesman at a time when social and political events marked a significant turning point in our 20th century India. He touched life at more points than may be dreamt of by many and his work in varied fields has left a permanent mark in our history. He had several firsts to his credit and the mayoralty of Madras was not an easy responsibility to be shouldered by a young man during a troublesome period. But he acquitted himself well in that position even as he could later do in numerous other positions in areas as wide-ranging as education, industry, banking, commerce, legislation, politics and service in the cause of Tamil, especially Tamil Isai.

It is extremely difficult for the son of a great man not to be overshadowed by his father's fame. And the task would have been a formidable one when the father happened to be Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, who enjoyed an awesome reputation for his

administrative genius as well as for his generosity. But Muthiah could make it and win recognition by his own deeds.

We will only be honouring our culture, our tradition, our language and our society by honouring the memory of Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar.

DR. RAJAH SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR - A MODEL MAYOR

Dr.M.G. MUTHUKUMARASAMY, MS.,FACS, FICS., FMMC.,
Vice - Chancellor, Annamalai University

Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad, the illustrious son of a distinguished and noble father, Dr. Rajah Sir M. Annamalai Chettiar, had the unique distinction of being the First Mayor of the Corporation of Madras in 1933. He was mainly instrumental in the creation of Mayoralty and he set the pattern of Mayoralty by evolving the principle of rotation in the selection of candidates for the Mayoralty by satisfying all the social, religious and communal interests of people belonging to different walks of life. He was re-elected to this august office for another term in November 1934. His eminent stature and royal bearing added status to the Mayoralty. I wish to recall that the members of the Chettinad family have had the rare distinction of being Mayors of the Corporation of Madras. His brother Sri R. Ramanathan Chettiar was Mayor of Madras from 1951 to 1952, and Sri M.A. Chidambarma Chettiar, also his brother, was mayor of Madras in 1955. With deep foresight, meticulous planning and with a high sense of civic responsibility, Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar administered the Corporation of Madras.

Mayoralty meant providing sanitation and other civic amenities to the citizens of Madras. The problems that he had to solve included providing decent housing and education to the poor, proper lighting and above all, the eradication of slums. The Cochrane Basin settlement was a standing monument to the lively civic conscience of the members of the Corporation of Madras and in particular its First Mayor Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar.

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar was every inch a king and a versatile genius. He had the golden touch. He was a Prince

among Merchants a pioneer in banking, an enlightened educationist, a leading industrialist, a renowned Philanthropist, a patron of music, an ardent advocate of Tamil language and culture, a zealous lover of good English, a Model Mayor and above all the second Founder- Pro-Chancellor of Annamalai University. He was also Minister of Education and Public Health for a short spell.

No less a person than Sri C. Rajagopalachariar had summed up the meritorious services rendered by Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar to the Annamalai University thus :

"The University which bears his father's name owes its continued progress not a little to Rajah Muthiah Chettiar's zeal and good judgment in securing the services of good and able Vice-Chancellors in unbroken succession."

In extending hospitality to his guests, he continued the rich tradition of the Chettinad family. He always received his guests with a warm smile and he was capable of engaging them in pleasing and enlightened conversation. In any gathering he could be easily identified. He came meticulously dressed for the occasion. He commanded respect in any assembly. He was capable of hearty laughter. He had the habit of throwing his head back and laughing. He spoke English with utmost precision and his accent was as good as that of a native English man. Though a stern disciplinarian he never said anything ignoble or mean to anyone.

With 'Courage' and 'Faith' he strode like a collosous in society and adroitly carried out in action the words enshrined in the Chettinad family emblem, "Strive, Save and Serve".

I whole - heartedly congratulate and thank the citizens of Madras and the admirers and friends of the Rajah Saheb, who have decided to commemorate his contribution to the City of Madras by

installing a life - size statue of Dr. Sir Muthiah Chettiar within the historic Ripon Building Complex and also by bringing out a special Souvènir containing Articles and Messages of Tributes to this great son of India.

BENEVOLENCE PERSONIFIED

Dr. P. MARUTHAI PILLAI
Honorary Consul for the Republic of Mauritius, former Sheriff of Madras,
Chairman - Aruna Sugars & Enterprises Ltd.

The name, Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, would immediately recall to anyone, who has lived in his times and known him pretty intimately, how he symbolised all the great virtues. Even a casual observer, who had no direct exposure to his style of life, would vouch this fact, because during his life - time he had left an indelible impact on the very social and cultural fabric of Tamil and Tamilnadu. Be it politics, philanthropy, art, education or any field of public importance and public service, he had made a mark that the history of Tamilnadu would proudly cherish and hand down to posterity; and generations yet to come will cherish out his memory gratefully. The seeds that he had sown in varying fields of Tamil life have grown into plants and one can see them even today.

I had the good fortune of closely knowing him and hearing about him from friends who were closer to him. Though each facet of his multi-splendoured personality conferred benefaction on multitudes of people in a number of ways, what had impressed me most was is humane demeanour, which, I would not say, he practised but lived upto in immeasurable terms.

Inheriting a rich and proud legacy by itself does not endow one with special virtues. We had seen in the past and are now seeing very many examples of children of great men languishing in remoteness, unnoticed by history. In fact the very back - ground has been their undoing in the case of a number of people. Even amongst people of rich background who have achieved a degree of greatness in their life, humility, kindness, nobility without a trace of arrogance, etc., are rarely seen in them. In the final reckoning, it is these virtues that have succoured a multitude of fellowmen, irrespective of caste, creed, status, etc., making a lasting impact on

the minds of people. Rajah Sir was a politician and had continuously lived in the limelight occupying positions in the Corporation of Madras and in the legislature for uninterrupted periods making himself worthy of a place in the Guinness Book of Record. He was an educationist. His great services to Tamil classical music and its growth and development were feats of history. He was a man of versatility, manifesting warmth and fellowship; kindness and nobility.

The greatness of Rajah Sir consisted in his overcoming all the pressures on his time and effort. Most of us had seen his great hospitality. He looked after every guest who visited his sprawling bungalow. Once he fondly carried a bag rice belonging to one of his employees from his village to Madras along with his other heavy luggage and delivered it at the place indicated by him. There are a number of such anecdotes about him, about the attention he paid to each and every fellow human being whom he came across.

Every one who got thrown into the web of his empathy had experienced rare benevolence at his hands. Though he had a fleet of cars, on one occasion there was only one personal car of his available. He had just then requisitioned this car for an urgent appointment, when a distant relative of his came rushing with a desperate request for a car to take an emergency patient to a hospital. Rajah Sir cancelled his appointment and let his relative use his personal car.

It was well known how he cared for his guests. Even in the midst of a large gathering of friends and relatives invited by him to any party hosted by him, Rajah Sir used to attend to the needs of every single guest personally, keeping in view his health requirements. He was habituated to eating always in the midst of a large number of people. He was particular to see off his guests and with utmost courtesy which made him even open the door of their cars.

The keen sense of fellowship that he religiously practiced almost every day was, in my opinion, noblest of all the qualities that he had been credited with and for which he will be remembered most, more than for any other quality. Even during the days of his ill-health he continued to be benevolent which had become a sort of second nature to him.

A GIANT AMONG MEN

KEKU D. PARAKH

Managing Partner, Tarapore & Co.

I am honoured and consider it a great privilege to be asked to contribute to the souvenir to be brought out on the occasion of the unveiling of the statue of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, the very first Mayor of Madras.

"Rajah Sir" as he was popularly known, was someone of whom Shakespeare would have said "This was a man!". He was a giant among men - known among his contemporaries for his warm and overwhelming hospitality, his unfailing courtesy and humility, and the brilliance and grace of his personality.

"Rajah Sir" towered amongst his equally illustrious contemporaries, with the breadth of his vision. In an age when all human thought and activity is divided into small specialist areas, his wide ranging achievements inspired awe. His memory will be cherished and celebrated in the institutions he headed with such distinction - the Annamalai University, the Corporation of Madras, the Tamil Isai Movement, amongst others. These will ever remain as living testimonies to his boundless talents in all fields for succeeding generations who did not have the privilege of knowing him.

Dr. Rajah Saheb will be remembered with love, respect and admiration by all those who came in touch with him.

A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL PERSONALITY

D. RANGASWAMY

Former President, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

How delightfully overwhelmed I feel in having been invited to contribute an article on the occasion of the unveiling of the statue of late Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad, because it is a rare privilege and honour in one's life to write about a unique personality.

My late father happened to know Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad and likewise as son of my father, myself happened to be an admirer of Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar, son of Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad.

Though the installation of the statue at the Corporation of Madras of which, he happened to be the First Mayor, has been long overdue, I am happy it is getting fulfilled at the 60th year of the life of the Corporation. Obviously it is destined to take place during the time of the Chief Ministership of Dr. J. Jayalalitha, who herself is due to unveil the statue.

Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad was a Tower and Pillar of Strength to Tamilnadu and also to our country and that Tower and Pillar is now being transformed into a Statue.

It is uniformly acknowledged that no visitor to the Chettinad House had failed to receive courtesy and hospitality from Rajah Saheb and that this was in no small measure due to his progressive outlook and approach. No visitor went unattended to because he believed in being pleasant in his speech and manners. Sometimes visitors would feel all attracted by his pleasant and purposeful conversation on the current topics so that they felt like repeating their visits to him frequently in that regard.

As far as I am concerned, I would like to mention a special feature about his special attachment to professionals, particularly,

the Chartered Accountants in the earlier days. He had encouraged many Chartered Accountants and appointed them as Statutory Auditors of Indian Bank and other concerns. He had also accommodated Chartered Accountants in the academic side by appointing them as part-time Lecturers in Annamalai University.

In fact, I, as the President of the Society of Auditors would like to commemorate his services in that regard and I hope that I will succeed in my mission.

His personal attachment to me stands reflected in his sincerity in inviting me to join the Board of Chettinad Cement Corporation Limited and thus, I have the privilege of now being the Chairman of the same. He had all the qualities of sound Chairmanship of a Corporate Body, when he displayed that as Chairman of Chettinad Cement Corporation Limited.

His personality was multi-dimensional. I would describe him, a multi-splendoured personality, a multi-magnificent personality and a multi-glorious personality.

As the first Mayor of Corporation of Madras, it is appropriate to honour him as the First Architect of the city of Madras under the umbrella of Corporation of Madras.

His illustrious son Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, who has imbibed the qualities of his great father in all respects also excels in supervising and organising any function with perfection and this memorable unveiling function will also prove to be a grand one under his direction.

One can write volumes about Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar. But being a Souvenir one has to make one's article a brief one.

I once again thank the Committee for affording me an opportunity to write about Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad on the occasion of the unveiling of his statue.

RAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR - A LEGACY

A. PADMANABAN, I.A.S. (Retd.)
Former Chief Secretary to Government

I had known Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar for over two decades while I was in different positions in Government Service as well as during my association with many Social and Cultural Organisations. I had then the pleasure of coming closer to the Rajah. He had a majestic personality; more majestic were his thoughts and deeds. He always had a sober and mature visage. His speech was soft, yet sweet. In the Legislature and outside, he kept up punctuality, discipline and decorum. He made his points effectively and with persuasive charm. His love for Tamil and Fine Arts was legendary even as his philanthropic qualities were boundless. He had great concern for the development of the country in which he was eager to see a highly industrialised and progressive Tamil Nadu. His contributions towards this were significant. With total dedication and dynamism, he nurtured and developed the great Temple of Learning - the Annamalai University which even to-day shines with glory, coupled with rich tradition and culture. Rajah was a multi - faceted person - a Parliamentraian, a keen entrepreneur, a lover of arts and music, a philanthropist, an educationist and above all a gentleman. He is no more with us but the legacy he has left behind for us is lustrous and of lasting value. Tamil and Tamil Nadu in general will always remember him and his noble family. Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, his illustrious son, had inherited this rich legacy and we are happy to see him safeguarding and sustaining this with devotion, pious disposition, philanthropic propensity and consummate ability.

"எல்லோருக்கும் நல்லவர்!"

கலைமாமணி டாக்டர் ஜி. உமாபதி

உலகத்திலேயே மிகச்சிறந்த நாடு என்று போற்றப்படும் நமது இந்திய நாட்டில் பஞ்ச ஜீவநதிகளும், நீண்ட நெடிய நிலப்பரப்பும், பரந்த கடற்பரப்பும், செழித்தோங்கிய காடுகளும், மலைகளும், நவகனிம வளங்களும், நவதானியங்களும், எண்ணற்ற காய்கறிகளும், பழவகைகளும், எண்ணிலடங்கா மருத்துவ மூலிகைகளும் செழித்து விளங்கிய நாடு நமது நாடாகும்.

பண்பாடு மற்றும் கலாச்சாரங்களில் சிறந்து விளங்கிய இந்த நாட்டில், அறிஞர்களும், கலைஞர்களும், இலக்கியவாதிகளும், புலவர்களும், மகான்களும் வாழ்ந்துவந்த பாரம்பரியமிக்க நமது புனிதத் திருநாட்டை அப்போது ஆண்டுகொண்டிருந்த சிற்றரசர்கள் தமக்குள்ளாகவே சண்டையிட்டு நாட்டைச் சிறுகச்சிறுகப் பிரித்து ஆட்சிஅமைத்துக் கொண்டிருந்த சமயத்தில், ஆங்கிலேயர்கள் நம்மிடையே நிலவிவந்த ஒற்றுமையில்லா நிலையை தங்களுக்குச் சாதகமாக்கிக்கொண்டு, நம்நாட்டை ஆக்கிரமித்து, நம்மை அடிமைகளாக்கி, அடக்கி ஆண்டார்கள்.

அடிமை விலங்கினால் பிணைக்கப்பட்டு, சிந்திக்கவும், செயல்படவும், உரிமையற்று, சக்தியற்று, கதிமோட்சமே கிடையாதா? - என்று ஏங்கித் தத்தளித்துக் கொண்டிருந்த பாரத மக்களை காப்பாற்றிட வந்த மகாத்மா அவர்கள் நம் நாட்டின் விடுதலைப் போராட்டத்திற்கு தலைமை ஏற்று, நமக்கு விடுதலைப் பெற்றுத்தந்தார்கள்.

அடிமைகளாக இருந்த காலத்தில், கல்வி வளர்ச்சியிலோ, தொழில் வளர்ச்சியிலோ நாம் அக்கறை கொள்ளாதவாறு நம்மை ஆங்கிலேயார்கள் நடத்திவந்தார்கள். அப்போது தென்னகத்தில் - குறிப்பாக தமிழகத்தில் ராஜாசர் அண்ணாமலை செட்டியார் அவர்கள், கல்விக்கண்ணை திறந்தால் நம் நாட்டவர் விழித்துக்கொண்டு சுதந்திரத்தைப் பெற்றிடப் போராடுவார்கள் என்பதை உணர்ந்து, ஆங்கிலேயர்களோடு நேரடியாக மோதாமல், மறைமுகமாக மக்களிடையே கல்வியின் பெருமையை உணரச்செய்து தேச பக்தியை வளர்த்தார்கள்.

கம்பரை வளர்த்த சடையப்ப வள்ளலைப்போன்று, இவர் ஏராளமான கல்விமகான்களையும், அறிஞர்களையும் தமது செல்வச் செழிப்பால் வளர்த்து வந்தார்கள். ஏராளமான கோவில்களையும், எண்ணற்ற அன்னசத்திரங்களையும் அமைப்பதைவிட மக்களின் அறிவுக் கண்களை திறந்திட கல்விச்சாலைகளை அமைத்தலே மாபெரும் உயர்வு பெற்றது என்ற மகாகவியின் கருத்திற்கேற்ப கல்விசாலைகள் அமைப்பதில் ஆர்வம் கொண்டு செயலாக்கிக் காட்டினார். அப்படி அவரால் 1920-ல் உருவாக்கப்பட்டதுதான் சிதம்பரத்தில் அமையப்பட்டுள்ள மீனாட்சிக் கல்லூரியும், 1929-ல் உருவான அண்ணாலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகமும் ஆகும்.

"தமிழையும், தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டையும் உலகறியச் செய்வதே அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் தலைசிறந்த குறிக்கோளாக இருக்கும்" - என்பதை உறுதியாகக்கொண்டு வாழ்ந்து வந்தார். நாட்டுக்கோட்டை நகரத்தார்களால் 'ராஜா' என்று அன்புடன் அழைக்கப்பட்டு வந்த அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியார் அவர்களின் அருந்தவப் புதல்வரான ராஜாசர் முத்தையாச் செட்டியார் அவர்கள், தமிழ் நாடு எங்கும் தமிழ் இசை முழங்க வேண்டும் என்ற தந்தையாரின் கனவை நினைவாக்கிட சென்னையிலும், மதுரையிலும், மற்றுமுள்ள முக்கிய நகரங்களிலும் தமிழிசை சங்கங்களை உருவாக்கி தமிழ் வளர்த்த பெருமகனாவார்.

அரச வாழ்க்கையில் மட்டுமல்லாது அரசியல் வாழ்க்கையிலும் பல்வேறு துறைகளில் பதவிகளை பொறுப்பேற்று சிறப்பாக சேவை செய்துள்ளார். இவருக்குள்ள பல்துறை அனுபவங்களை ஒட்டி இந்தியாவின் அரசியல் நிர்ணய சபைக்கும், புதுடில்லியில் உள்ள சட்டசபைக்கும் இவர் உறுப்பினராக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பெற்றார்.

விடுதலைப்பெற்ற இந்தியாவின் அரசியல் அமைப்பினை உருவாக்கும் கடமையினை ஏற்று அரசியல் நிர்ணய சபையின் அலுவல்களில் பங்குபெற்று, அனைவரது பாராட்டுதல்களையும் பெற்றுள்ளார். அரசியல் துறையில் இவர் மேற்கொண்டுள்ள பொறுப்புக்கள் அனைத்திலும் நம் நாட்டு மக்களுக்கு பயன் விளையச் செய்தலையே முக்கியக் குறிக்கோள்களாகக் கொண்டு செயல்புரிந்து வந்தார். மதுவிலக்குச்சட்டம், விற்பனை வரிச்சட்டம், மொழிக் கொள்கை முதலியவைபற்றி தேர்ச்சியான

அறிவுத்திறன் பெற்று, 'முதுபெரும் தலைவர்' என்றும், 'முதுபேரறிஞர்' என்றும் அரசியல் துறையில் மக்களால் பாராட்டப்பெற்றார்.

ராஜா அவர்கள் தமது 24-ஆவது வயதிலேயே அரசியல் வாழ்வைத் தொடங்கி பெருமை பெற்றார். சென்னை நகராட்சிஉறுப்பிராக 1929-ல் அன்றைய சென்னை அரசாங்கத்தால் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டார். அதுவரையில் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டவர்களில் இவரே மிகவும் இளையவர் ஆவார்.

1933-பிப்ரவரித் திங்களில் அவரது பெருமுயற்சியினால் தோற்றுவிக்கப்பெற்ற மேயர் பதவி அவருக்கே அளிக்கப்பட்டது. அவர் மேயராக பதவி வகித்தபோது, சென்னை மாநகரின் அமைப்பிற்கும், அழகிற்கும், ஆட்சிக்கும், நகர மக்களின் நல்வாழ்விற்கும் ஆற்றிய பணிகள் அவருடைய புகழை மேலும் உயர்த்தின.

மேயருக்குரிய தனிஉடையும், விலையுயர்ந்த பொற்பதக்கமும், வீற்றிருக்கத்தக்க ஆசனத்தையும் இவரே உருவாக்கி, மேயர் பதவிக்கு பெருமை சேர்த்தார். அத்துடன் தமிழகத்தின் தலைநகரில் வானொலி நிலையம் அமையச்செய்தார். பல தொழில்களை உருவாக்கி மக்களின் வளர்ச்சியில் முக்கிய பங்கு வகித்தார். மக்களால் 'அரசர்' என்ற அழைக்கப்பட்டாலும், சாதாரண பிரஜையாக உழைத்து, தந்தையாரைப்போன்றே பல கல்விச் சாலைகளையும், ஆலயங்களையும் உருவாக்கி மகிழ்ந்தார்.

முத்தமிழ் வளர்த்த உத்தமராகவும், தமிழிசை சங்கங்கள் நிறுவிய வித்தகராகவும், பேச்சாற்றல் மிக்க பெரியவராகவும், வங்கித்துறை வல்லுநராகவும், பல்வேறு பொறுப்புக்களை ஏற்று அனைத்திலும் தனது முத்திரையை பதித்த சிறப்புக்குரியவர் ராஜாசர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்கள்.

அவர் வாழ்ந்த காலத்திலேயே நானும் வாழ்ந்தவன் என்ற புகழோடு, அந்த மாபெரும் மேதையோடு நெருங்கிப் பழகுகின்ற வாய்ப்பினை பெற்றவன் என்ற பெருமையும் எனக்குண்டு. ராஜா அவர்கள் பேசுகின்றபோது மற்றவர்களின் தோள்மீது வைத்து பேசுகின்ற பாங்கும், அடிக்கடி 'என்ன சொன்னேன்?..' என்ற வார்த்தையை உபயோகித்து நம்மையெல்லாம் அன்புக்கடலில் ஆழ்த்தி வந்த அழகும் மறக்க முடியாதவைகளாகும்.

இவருக்கு, அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் அதன் வெள்ளிவிழாவிலும், சென்னை, பல்கலைக்கழகம் அதன் 125-ஆம் ஆண்டு விழாவிலும் மதிப்பியல் 'டாக்டர்' பட்டம் வழங்கிப் பெருமை பெற்றன. அரசர் முத்தையவேள் அவர்களின் பல்துறைப் பணிகளைப் பாராட்டி இந்திய அரசு, அவருக்கு 'பத்மபூஷன்' பட்டம் வழங்கி மகிழ்ந்தது.

ராஜா அவர்களின் சஷ்டியப்தப்பூர்த்தி விழாவிலும், அவரது இளைய மகனார் டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ.எம்.அவர்களின் சஷ்டியப்தப்பூர்த்தி விழாவிலும் கலந்துகொண்டு அவர்களுடைய அன்பினை பெற்றவன் நான்.

ராஜா அவர்களின் தலைமகனார் குமாரராஜா அவர்களும் எனக்கு நெருங்கிய நண்பராவார். அடக்கமே பொருளாளக் கொண்ட அரிய குணத்தார். இவர் இந்தியன் வங்கியின் தலைவராக இருந்தபோது, என்னுடைய சாந்தி திரையரங்கம் கட்டிட உதவிபுரிந்தார். ஆனால், இளமையிலேயே அவர் மறைந்து போனது ஒரு மாபெரும் மறக்க முடியாத துன்பமாகும். அவரது மறைவு தந்தையார் முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்களுக்கு பேரிடியாக அமைந்தது. 'புத்திரசோகத்தால்' அவரது உடல் நலம் சிறுகச் சிறுக குன்ற ஆரம்பித்தது.

தந்தையார் முத்தையா செட்டியார் போன்று கல்வி வளர்ப்பதிலும், கலை வளர்ப்பதிலும், மொழி வளர்ப்பதிலும் செட்டிநாட்டுப் பரம்பரையின் சிறப்பை மேலும் உயர்த்தி, தந்தையாரின் இடத்தை பரிபூரணமாக இன்று நிரப்பிய பெருமை அவரது இளைய குமாரரும், இன்றைய அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் இணைவேந்தருமான டாக்டர் எம்.எ.எம்.ராமசாமி அவர்களையேச் சாரும்.

மாபெரும் மேதை 'பத்மபூஷன்' டாக்டர் ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்களுக்கு தமிழக முதல்வரின் பொற்கரத்தால் 21.10.94 அன்று சிலை திறப்பு விழா நடைபெற இருப்பதைக் கேட்டுப் பெருமகிழ்ச்சி கொள்கின்றேன்.

ராஜா அவர்களின் சிறப்பும், செட்டிநாட்டு பரம்பரையின் புகழும், சிறந்த மாமேதையும், செல்வச்சீமானுமான டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ.எம்.அவர்களின் குடும்பமும், மேலும் புகழோடு செழித்தோங்கவும், சிலைதிறப்பு விழா இனிதே நடைபெறவும் எல்லாம் வல்ல இறைவனை பிராத்திக்கிறேன்.

எனது பள்ளித்தோழரும், அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக் கழகத்தின் துணைவேந்தராக இரண்டு முறை பதவி வகித்தவருமான “கல்விமேதை” டாக்டர் சை.வே.சிட்டிபாபு அவர்கள், இந்தச் சிறப்புமிகு சிலை திறப்புவிழாக் கமிட்டியின் தலைவராக பொறுப்பேற்று இருப்பது சிறப்புக்குரியதாகும். இந்த இனிய விழாவில் என்னையும் இணைத்துக்கொண்டது நான் செய்த செல்வத் தவப்பயனேயாகும்.

A UNIQUE PERSONALITY WITH ADMIRABLE TRAITS

L. SABARETNAM
Executive Director, Chettinad Cements Ltd.

It is most befitting that a life-size bronze statue of our beloved Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar is due to be unveiled by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, within the office complex of the Corporation of Madras, to commemorate his becoming the First Mayor of the City way back in 1933.

What evokes our admiration is the fact that when he was elected the First Mayor of the City of Madras, he was just hardly 28 years of age only. In fact having been appointed Member of the Madras Municipal Council by the then Government of Madras in 1929, he shaped himself as a distinguished personality and public figure. He served the Corporation with a high sense of devotion and efficiency. One wonders whether in our present day we would be able to find someone so young but still capable of shouldering such onerous duties. Rajah Sir's contribution to the promotion of all public causes was commendable and whatever post he held in the various walks of his life became one of great importance, thanks to his golden touch.

It was my proud privilge to study in Annamalai University for my graduate course and during the period of my study I was all admiration for Dr. Rajah Sir for the admirable manner in which he built up the reputation and stature of the University with matchless imagination and vision. Even after I left the University, the impact that the University so sedulously fashioned and strengthened by him, had created in my mind and heart, gave me a boost to my endeavours to become an ardent and loyal manager of the Company interests of the Chettinad House. It was because of the inspiration that I derived from Dr. Rajah Sir that I could fulfil the obligationss and responsibilities that have devolved on me now

under the masterly stewardship of my present boss, Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, a worthy son of a worthy father.

I can never forget the great and dedicated contributions of Rajah Sir during his life time to the promotion of Tamil Culture and Arts, not to speak of commerce and industry. Truly he was a rare personality with several accomplishments to his credit - an astute industrialist and businessman, a deeply erudite educationist and a model parliamentarian.

His royal touch, benevolence, philanthropy and his profound concern for the welfare of all sections of the people, regardless of creed, caste and status, are still cherished with affection by all who know him personally. And such people are numerous indeed who had been benefitted immensely under his spacious umbrella.

My association with the highly respected Rajah Saheb's illustrious family spans three generations and more, and I had the personal good fortune to have been under his noble guidence right from 1962 when I joined the Chettinad Group of enterprises. His mature knowledge, innovativeness and experience he shared with people like me whole- heartedly. With his affection, humility, kindness and great strength of character, he had always been a tremendous source of motivation and encouragement to me and was instrumental in shaping me into what I am today. Words cannot adequately describe the depth of my indebtedness to him.

I am sure that the statue of the Rajah Saheb would stand out as an enduring monument to his munificence and magnificance and continue to inspire the present and future generations to emulate his shining example as one who had an aristocratic brilliance of mind with a democratic benevolence of heart.

A MEMOIR

Prof. Sam. G.P. MOSES
Senior Consultant Physician, Madras ,
Founder Fellow, Indian College of Physicians

It is with considerable pleasure and delight that I write these few lines by way of paying my tribute to the late Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar on the memorable occasion when his statue is due to be unveiled.

I was personally associated with Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar for almost three decades as a family medical consultant of his and more so as a younger friend of his.

As a medical consultant and friend I was very much impressed by his knowledge and ideas. He was one of the most co-operative of my patients - ready to comply with my medical advice. He had great regard for medicine as a discipline and to him medical treatment was something to be respected. He was meticulous about his personal health and was also greatly concerned about the health and welfare of all around him in the Chettinad Palace and even about all his other known persons and friends. That was something unique for a medical man like me to observe in my long tenure of medical service.

Many a time I had discussions with him on many medical and non-medical matters and by virtue of his widely acquired general knowledge of men and matters he impressed people like me very much. Every time I attend any tea meeting hosted by him, I got enriched in my knowledge, thanks to Rajah Saheb.

He was benevolent and very kind hearted - very very generous and philanthropic. One of his great ambitious was to see that a medical college came up in Annamalai University. And what he initiated in this regard has found fulfilment at the hands of his distinguished son, Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy.

I can only conclude by saying that as a medical man who comes across mostly patients with fewer opportunities to mix with the social public, I was profoundly impressed by the excellent public relations that the Rajah maintained. I cherish the pleasantest of memories of my association with Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, whose name and fame will remain for ever in history. Generations to come, I hope will, admire and emulate his ideas.

I wish the statue unveiling function all success.

A PIONEER OF ADMIRABLE DYNAMISM

T. RAMESH U. PAI

Manipal

It is generally given to a person to excel in one or two fields of his choice but in Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar, one had a truly multi-faceted personality. He adorned everything that he touched. An illustrious son of an illustrious father, he did not remain content to bask in reflected glory but while carrying on the rich traditions and pioneering work struck a new path of his own, carving for himself a place in history alongside Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, his revered father.

Beginning his career during the British regime, he became the first and youngest mayor of Madras at the early age of 24, a role he performed with unique distinction. It is therefore befitting that the public of Madras in fond remembrance of the path-breaking contribution made by him to the City of Madras is erecting a life-size statue of his in the Ripon building which houses the Corporation of Madras.

In particular, I would like to highlight the role played by Rajah Sir, as he was popularly known, in the field of education. If the Annamalai University ranks amongst the best in the country, it is in no small measure due to his contribution during his long tenure as Pro-Chancellor. Without being a linguistic chauvinist he made the Annamalai University a centre for the study of Tamil language and culture and made a signal contribution to the development of Tamil. Besides the traditional courses of study he emphasised the study of Fine Arts, Music, Linguistics and Marine Biology and introduced Post-graduate Courses in Engineering and Technology, blending the old and the new. He had a fine sense of the rich heritage and traditions of India and did not want them to languish or die due to the march of science or the limited emphasis of the British inspired education system. Thanks to greatmen like him, all that is best in our culture has been preserved and strengthened.

In a fitting acknowledgement of his contribution to education, he was made Minister in charge of Education in the Government of Madras, thus providing him an opportunity to experiment his ideas on a wider canvas. It is these pioneering efforts that have given Tamilnadu a pride of place in education, contributing the best of administrators and professionals to the country. Manipal, a centre of learning with which Dr. T.M.A. Pai was associated drew inspiration in no small measure from the pioneering work of Rajah Sir.

I feel honoured to pay my humble tribute to him on this important occasion.

A MARVEL OF HAPPY AND GRACIOUS FLEXIBILITY

DR. S.V. CHITTIBABU
Vice Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education &
Former Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad was a classic example of what Pericles of Athens called, 'eutrapelia' - a happy and gracious flexibility. Amplifying this expression Mathew Arnold says : "This quality of eutrapelia, in which the Athenians excelled, is but a blend of lucidity of thought, clearness and propriety of language, freedom from prejudice and freedom from stiffness, openness of mind and amiability of manners." Need I say that all of us who had the singular privilege of knowing and moving with the Rajah Saheb would unhesitatingly endorse having been a marvel of a man blessed with a rare combination of striking and adorable traits of personality and character. Every time I think of Dr. Rajah Sir, my heart wells up with feelings of reverential gratitude, for it was he who in more respects than one had influenced my educational career with his magnificence as a titan in thought, energy and action. I saw in him 'a man of renown who had borne rule in his dominions', 'a man of great power endowed with wisdom' and 'a rich man in virtue studying beauteousness'.

Even during my school days I had developed great admiration for him, having heard from my lawyer father about his having made history as the first and the youngest Mayor of the Corporation of Madras, a Member of the Pachaiyappa's Trust Board and as a Member of the Madras Legislative Council even when he was in his twenties, and as a State Minister, President of the Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Madras while he was in

his thirties only. But it was only after taking my M.A. Degree in History from Pachaiyappa's College, that I ventured to meet the great Rajah Saheb in his 'Chettinad House' on a day in July 1942 with my application for the post of a Lecturer in History in the very college where I studied. It was 8.30 in the morning and Kumararajah was having his morning cup of tea when I was called in. That was going to be my first meeting with a towering personality and naturally I was seized by a sense of trepidation. On seeing him I felt attracted by his countenance with a classic touch of benignity about it. I paused for a few seconds and told him about the purpose of my visit. He asked me why I was after a teacher's job, when I should have preferred to study law and become an advocate like my father. I was aware that one serious minus point in my case was my age, as I had just then crossed twenty one only. However, summoning my courage I said : "Rajah Sir, I love to teach, as I consider teaching is a noble calling and I feel confident that though too young for the job, I can teach, and that too in Pachaiyappa's College which is my alma mater." With an appreciative smile he looked at me and asked me a few more questions which, I think, I answered to his satisfaction. When I was about to take leave of him, he wanted me to have a cup of coffee and then go. I was taken aback, for I never thought that as one seeking a job I would be treated so generously as Kumararajah did, and that too with a word of encouragement at the end of the interview. I left the Chettinad House with an inward feeling that whether I got the job or not, I had the unique opportunity of meeting a celebrity who could be pleasing, considerate and gracious even to those who met him for the first time. In the first week of August 1942 I received orders of appointed from the Pachaiyappa's Trust Board much to my delight. I hastened to the Chettinad House again, this time to express my grateful thanks to

When Annamalai University was in the throes of a crisis caused by a total strike by the teaching and non-teaching staff, hostel employees and research scholars, I was commissioned by the Government on the recommendation of the Rajah Saheb to take on the Vice-Chancellorship of the University to bring back peace to the campus. It was the most frightening task that was assigned to me. Nevertheless, I accepted the gauntlet, motivated as I was by the inspiring motto of the University, viz., "With Courage and Faith." I called on Dr. Rajah Sir, paid my respects to him as Pro-Chancellor, thanked him for the confidence he had reposed in me and sought his advice and guidance. During all the discussions I had with him on how to defuse the crisis by ironing out a solution acceptable to the University authorities and the agitators, I found him responsive and receptive and not stubborn and inflexible. In spite of the anguish and pain caused to him by the ugly happenings on the campus, his perspicuity, accommodativeness and readiness to forget and forgive, helped me to settle points at issue smoothly and amicably. As I used to say then, the Rajah Saheb rose sky-high in everybody's esteem as one "noble in reason, infinite in faculty, express and admirable in form and moving, angelic in apprehension and action." Seeing the need had arisen for the University to concentrate on post-graduate teaching and advanced research and emerge as an acclaimedly unique centre of excellence, the Pro-Chancellor gave the green signal to my proposal that the University bodies might be moved for shedding the under-graduate courses of study on the basis of a phased schedule. The abolition scheme was put through in the face of rumbustious resistance from the teaching faculty in the Academic Council. But for the steadfast support and unfailing encouragement given to me by Dr. Rajah Sir, in this regard, my efforts might have ended in a fiasco.

A most cherished dream of the Rajah Saheb was to see that a Medical College was established under the Faculty of Medicine and it was given to me to set about concretising his wish. The foundation stone was laid and the construction of the building to house the College was begun as per the plan approved by him. But most unexpectedly the eventful life of the Rajah Saheb was cut short by the icy hands of death in May 1984.

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar whose memory is cherished even today by his countless relations, friends, admirers and beneficiaries with a profound feeling of indebtedness and unfading fondness was indeed a marvel of a man, a "gem of the purest ray serene", a modern version of the "Great Commoner", an exemplar of the triune concept of generosity in the design, humanity in the execution and humility in success; a rarest combination of prince, banker, industrialist, administrator, educationist, mentor, prosector and benefactor. A person with a golden touch, he gave the fourth dimension to everything he laid his hands on. He was famed for his nobility, magnanimity, simplicity, humility and hospitality. The motto of Pachaiyappa's College whose destiny was shaped on radiant lines by Dr. Rajah Sir himself as one of its long-standing trustees is "Mens Agitat Molem". It means 'mind moves matter'. Living as we do in times that threaten to plunge the world into the depths of gloom and despair, this motto alone which was the lodestar that guided the Rajah Saheb throughout his glorious life, can change the world with the spark eternal and weave mind, heart and soul into a rich harmony of sweetness and light.

THE RAJAH SAHEB WAS AN INSTITUTION

AR. RAMASWAMY, CHETTINAD HOUSE

It gives me immense pleasure that the statue of Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar, Rajah of Chettinad, has been installed within the complex of the Corporation of Madras and is due to be unveiled by no less a dignitary than our dynamic Puratchi Thalaivi, Dr. J. Jayalalitha, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar, as we know, became the First Mayor of the City of Madras in recognition of his previous services as President in 1933. This was an unequalled honour conferred on the Rajah Saheb.

I feel proud and privileged to offer my reminiscential tribute to this noble soul with whom I was associated closely for more than three decades. It was he who got me into one of the Madras Branches of the Indian Bank in the year 1955 from which year I had the pleasure of accompanying him to almost all the functions he attended besides being with him when he engaged himself in several Social, Cultural, Welfare, Business and Educational activities. The Rajah Saheb was a very great statesman with abundant knowledge of men and matters which won for him the praises of very great men in every sphere of life. His was a personality that conquered many hearts, not by any aggressive advocacy of causes or by trenchant opposition to them on his part, but by his sweet reasonableness of approach. Though it would not be possible for me to write exhaustively about this liberal philanthropist, for which, I feel, words will not suffice, I shall confine myself to referring to his manificient qualities like humility, hospitality, charitableness and his services to the public at large.

Humility and Hospitality

The Rajah Saheb was available always for any person to meet when he came for any obligation, help or discussion. He would give a patient hearing to all the visitors and would do his best to

see that the wishes of the seekers of help were fulfilled to the maximum extent possible. To my knowledge, no visitor went away disappointed. Dr. Rajah Saheb felt a sense of fulfilment only when he did his best to every one who approached him for any favour. When any matter concerning the welfare of the public was referred to him, Rajah Saheb left no stone unturned, not minding his own health and time to achieve the desired end. I dare say that many welfare schemes would not have fructified but for the efforts of the Rajah Saheb.

Another notable thing about the Rajah Saheb was that of his role as a host. Almost every day he treated many a high dignitary to either sumptuous lunch or fabulous dinner. He was never tired of this role as a host par excellence. But, while playing host, he utilised the opportunities to discuss many matters of common concern and shared his views with his guests on the subject discussed. He took personal care to see that the invitees were well looked after, with every minute detail being take note of. Everyone who had the pleasure of joining him for lunch or dinner remembered him for his affectionate hospitality. He never failed to accompany the guests upto the portico of his mansion and wave his hand when the guests moved out. Among his many guests were the Prime Minister of Ceylon, the Governor-General of Ceylon, Prince Phillip Duke of Edinburgh, Indian Governors, Prime Ministers, Presidents of India, Chief Ministers, Speakers of the Legislative Assembly and of the Legislative Council, State and Central Ministers. His profound love and interest in Tamil Language and Culture was demonstrated when he threw a colourful dinner party at the Chettinad House for the delegates to the First World Tamil Conference, organised and held in Madras by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble Thiru C.N. Annadurai (the great Anna).

To cite an example for testifying to his generosity and simplicity, I would like to refer an incident in which I was involved myself. I had to undergo an operation for tonsils in the

year 1956. The Rajah Saheb, coming to know of it, took a personal interest in fixing an expert surgeon, viz., Dr. V.S. Subramanian for the operation and besides making all arrangements for the operation, he saw to it that my parents were brought to Madras and made to stay as his own guests at the Chettinad House for about a fortnight till I completely recovered. He would not brook any of his servants falling ill and so he arranged for their medical treatment immediately. This admirable quality earned for him the total loyalty and love of his servants.

On one occasion a party was organised by the members of the staff of the Bank branch where I was working, to honour me for my getting promotion as an Officer in the Bank. On the same day I was to accompany the Rajah Saheb to a function in which he was to participate. Hesitatingly I told the Rajah Saheb about the proposed party in my office. He immediately gave me leave to attend the office party without fail. But then to my great surprise, he wanted me to come to the Chettinad House with my family members for Tea the next evening, in the midst of his multifarious activities and engagements. In fact he spent some time with us all and present me with a nice gift. This is an incident I cannot forget in my whole life. Even now I am keeping this gift as my dearest possession. The Rajah Saheb used to make sure that persons who accompanied him were given the same treatment as was given to him and I should say with a sense of pardonable pride that I was one who enjoyed the maximum pleasure by accompanying him on many occasions for about three decades.

Education

Dr. Rajah Sir did his very best for strengthening and raising the fame and name of Annamalai University, which his illustrious father founded. As Pro-Chancellor of the University for about 36 years after the demise of his father, he started various new faculties which benefitted lakhs of students. The Rajah Saheb was one who raised his strident voice against the imposition of Hindi. While he

loved Tamil, he had a great liking for English, which he spoke very fluently.

The reputation of the Annamalai University was kept so high by him by choosing distinguished personalities and eminent educationists as Vice-Chancellors. Among them were the Right Hon'ble V.S Srinivasa Sastri, Dr. R.K. Shanmugham Chettiar, Dr. Sir C.P. Ramaswami Iyer, Dr. Chandrasekaran, Sri T.M. Narayanaswami Pillai, Dr. S.V. Chittibabu, etc.

In 1954 A Conference of P.E.N. was held at Annamalainagar. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan presided and the Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was present on that occasion. The latter profoundly complimented the Rajah Saheb and Sir C.P. Ramaswami Iyer as well for their laudable services to the University. Both the Silver Jubilee and the Golden Jubilee of the University were celebrated on a grand scale by the Rajah Saheb, who was the then Pro-Chancellor.

Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, the illustrious son of Dr. Rajah Sir, is now the Pro-Chancellor of the Annamalai University and he has fulfilled the great desire of his revered father by opening the Medical College and striving every nerve of his for extending and intensifying all the faculties of the University.

The Gandhinagar Education Society, which was fortunate to have the Rajah Saheb as its Patron since 1956, is running seven educational institutions (2 Higher Secondary Schools, 2 High Schools, 1 Middle School and 2 Primary Schools) in Rajah Annamalaipuram and Adyar in Madras, serving the educational needs of the poor and down-trodden. Separate boys schools and girls schools in these areas have been made possible, thanks to the princely donations of the Rajah Saheb and the eforts he had made to serve the cause of secodnary education in this party of Madras. The Gandhinagar Education Society is one of the Societies and Trusts of which I am fortunate to serve as Honorary Secretary for more than 20 years. Besides the schools at Madras, the Annamalai

Polytechnic at Chettinad, the Polytechnic and other schools at Annamalainagar, Chidambaram and Karur, etc., owe their very existence to the Rajah Saheb.

Cultural and Welfare Activities

The Annual Music festival at the Annamalai Manram, Madras, has always exuded an air of sanctity. It is almost an Aradhana to the revered Memory of the Rajah Saheb's illustrious father, Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, to whom Tamil Isai was dearest to his heart. The Rajah Saheb's interest in developing Tamil language, Isai, Research and Culture is one inherited by him from his beloved father. This can well be judged by the existing monument-like Rajah Annamalai Manram, Rani Seethai Hall, Rajah Muthiah Manram, Madurai, and various Charitable Trusts etc., standing either in the name of his revered parents or in the name of his own beloved wife.

Dr. Rajah Sir used to participate in almost all cultural and welfare activities and he had never failed to share his expert views on those occasions and what was more he extended rich donations. He was very much interested in the welfare activities of the poor and spared no efforts to see that their purpose was fully achieved and their benefits reached the concerned public. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention here that he was he who made me the Honorary Secretary for various Welfare Trusts and I am still holding that post and striving my best to follow in his foot steps keeping him in my heart as my guiding star.

Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, the present Pro-Chancellor of the Annamalai University and Patron of all the establishments of his illustrious grand-father and father, is a replica of theirs, in the matter of striving, saving and serving the community. As a worthy son of a worthy father, Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy spares no pains to see that all that was created by his grand father and father is properly looked after. All know that the charitable nature of Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy is no less than his grand father and father.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is only appropriate that the statue of Padmabhushan Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, as the First Mayor of Madras, should be installed at the Corporation of Madras and be unveiled by Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. It is but fitting that this great man should be honoured thus in recognition of his boundless services to the public in all ways and by all means. The Rajah Saheb is still living in the hearts of lakhs and lakhs of businessmen, educationists, politicians, Nagarathars, philosophers, sculptors and students spread over in India, nay, the whole world. Let me end with a beautiful verse composed by the Children's Poet, AL. Valliappa in praise of Dr. Rajah Sir -

சுத்துகடல் பரப்பினைப்போல் மனமிருக்கும்
கருணையுள தாயைப்போல் அன்பிருக்கும்
வித்துக்குள் கருப்போல பேச்சிருக்கும்
விளங்கிடுநல் ஒளிக்கதிர் போல் சிரிப்பிருக்கும்
வித்தகர்க்கும் கண் திறக்கும் அறிவிருக்கும்
வேடிக்கை மனிதரஞ்சும் துணிவிருக்கும்
மொத்தத்தில் பண்பனைத்தும் நிறைந்திருக்கும்
முத்தையா பெயரென்றும் நிலைத்திருக்கும்.

A MAYOR WITH A FORESIGHT

JUSTICE V. RATNAM
Chief Justice, High Court of H.P. (Retd.)

Traditionally, Tamil Nadu has the distinction of remembering and honouring its great men, who have dedicated their lives to public good and service. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar was a colossus, who kept his height, wherever he stood and in whatever he did. To many, a high ancestry and mighty name served as an umbrage, but Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar was exceptionally different. With goodness, politeness, grace, courage, dignity, generosity, humanity, moderation, magnanimity of deeds, good judgment, sound discretion, true and practical wisdom, clean and sensitive conscience, steadfast and scrupulous integrity in things, big or small, as part of himself, he firmly believed that it is worth living up to a good principle by doing things, less spectacular and more helpful and utilitarian, giving a meaning to the lives of many. Madras City, famous for its captivating sea-front with an irresistible appeal and combining in it an inter-section of different belts of religion, culture, civilisation and the pleasures pertaining to rural life with the activities of a metropolis,was indeed fortunate to have had him as its first Mayor and first citizen way back in 1933, which high and important office was adorned by him for a second term as well. To him, Mayoralty meant serious business and he wholeheartedly applied himself to make Madras, a city beautiful and a city with health, happiness and harmony. Visiting every road, street and by-lane to blot out slums and slum mentality, he was instrumental in providing decent housing, sanitation, education, proper lighting, water-supply, sewerage, credit facilities for the slum-dwellers, for their betterment: Firmly believing that national progress depended on the progress of education, he extended the scope of the educational faciliteis to the children of the poorer sections by reviving and strengthening schools, securing funds, accommodation, playground and other facilities and even transport. With a view to encourage the spread of education, he

laid special emphasis on the Midday Meals Scheme and a large number of children belonging to the poorer sections of the community were greatly benefited. His Mayoralty was one of effective action on all fronts towards clearly conceived ends and he planned his work and worked his plan. In the performance of his public duty, no personal consideration ever deterred him and in rendering service to the community, he clearly saw what was near at hand instead of something dim and distant. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, by his good action and deeds, has already raised a monument in the hearts, minds and memories of men. How advantageous and productive of results it would be, if the benefit of his guidance, suggestions, experience had been available now, when everyone talks about Madras, Beautiful Madras, City Cleaner and Greener, Madras Vision, etc.! The unveiling of his statue within the premises of Madras Corporation of which he was the First Mayor, will be a fitting tribute to the excellent services rendered by him and serve as a constant reminder to all of us as to what he stood for and worked for and what public service should be.

A GENTLEMAN WITH A HUMAN TOUCH

JUSTICE P. BHASKARAN

It is a great pleasure to hear that a life-size statue of Padmabhushan Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar is being installed within the Ripon Building Complex. It is difficult to enumerate the several achievements of his during his life time. The growth and welfare of the Tamil People and Tamilnadu were uppermost in his mind. Annamalai University with various faculties even now stands as a permanent monument to his love for the people of Tamilnadu by providing higher education. It now finds a place in the international educational field for its excellence. He established many industries providing employment opportunities to thousands of people. Chettinad Cements stands as a monument to his thoughtful planning and expert execution. He also took active part in the administration of the country. He was a Councillor at first, then the youngest Mayor of the Madras Corporation and then a member of Legislative Assembly and also a Minister in the State. In all such posts, he proved his capability and a will to serve the people particularly the poor and down-trodden was uppermost in his mind.

It was a great quality in him to move with love and affection with all people who happened to come into contact with him. I remember with gratitude one such occasion when I had the benefit of his love. When I was District and Sessions Judge, South Arcot, once I happened to accompany the great Chief Justice T. Ramaprasad Rao to Annamalai University who went there to participate in a function. I suddenly fell ill. Then the Rajah Saheb personally took me to V.C.'s Bungalow and made me take rest there. He specifically instructed the staff to look after me as advised by the doctor, and he was keeping a watch over my health, in spite of his busy schedule on that day. He was eagerly looking for my elevation to the High Court. But unfortunately he was not alive to bless me at the time of my elevation.

His noble work in all fields is being continued with great vigour and enthusiasm by his illustrious son Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy. It is a fitting tribute to the Rajah of Chettinad and a proud privilege for the people of Tamilnadu that his life-size statue is being unveiled in the Ripon Buildings Complex by the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamilnadu.

pavement and slum dwellers as well, the under-privileged. He was one of the foremost nationalists and rose to the position of a Minister in the Cabinet of the then composite Madras Presidency and discharged his ministerial functions and responsibilities to the satisfaction of one and all, thereby adding to his many remarkable and glorious achievements. He, indeed, in his manifold capacities as a political statesman, educationist, Pro-Chancellor of Annamalai University and philanthropist, bestowed his thought and attention upon many problems facing the country and the society in the political, economic, social, cultural and educational fields.

His sympathy for the poor, his charity extending even to the undeserving and his faith in humanity were qualities of enduring value. He was contented to serve in humble and unassuming ways and found his reward in selfless social service itself. In short, his actions and deeds in every field were directed by motives of superior nature and his benefactions were unparalleled.

I had the unique honour and privilege of moving with him on many occasions and participating in public functions under his leadership and guidance. His affable temperament, genial manners, keen humour, use of sober language, constructive and creative thoughts, deep knowledge of human nature made it a privilege and pleasure for everyone to meet and converse with him. He used to astonish everyone by his unbounded hospitality and unlimited generosity.

His austerity in private life, profundity in his thoughts and urbanity in behaviour are beacons for the succeeding generations.

The memory of Padmabhushan Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar will ever evoke in the hearts of millions and millions of Tamilians both in India and abroad an impression of refreshing sanity and great responsibility of character in all spheres of human endeavour and public affairs.

செல்வத்துள் சிறந்த செல்வம்

கி. ராஜேந்திரன்
நிர்வாக ஆசிரியர், "கல்கி"

ராஜா சர் அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியார் அவர்கள் குடும்பத்தின் மூன்று தலைமறைகளுடன் "கல்கி" குடும்பத்துக்கு இருந்து வரும் தொடர்பும் நட்பும் குறித்து நான் பெருமை அடைந்திருக்கிறேன்.

ராஜா சர் அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியார் அவர்களும் "கல்கி" அவர்களும் நெருங்கிவரக் காரணமாக இருந்தது தமிழிசை இயக்கம். இந்த விஷயத்தில் "கல்கி" அவர்களுக்கும் இருந்த ஈடுபாடு காரணமாக, அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியார் அவர்களது இதர பல சிறப்புக்கள் "கல்கி" அவர்களின் கவனத்தைக் கவராமல் போகவில்லை. தமிழிசைக்கு மட்டுமின்றி, கல்விக்கும் தொழிலுக்கும் அந்தப் பெருந்தகை செய்துள்ள மகத்தான பணிகளைப் பலமுறை பலவாறு எழுதி மகிழ்ந்தவர் "கல்கி".

மகன் தந்தைக்கு ஆற்றும் உதவி இவன் தந்தை
என் நோற்றான் கொல் எனுஞ் சொல்

என்பது குறள். அந்தவாறே ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்கள், அண்ணாமலையாரின் தவப்புதல்வராகப் பிறந்து, தகப்பனார் ஆரம்பித்து வைத்த நற்பணிகளைத் தொடர்ந்து நன்கு நடத்தியதுடன் அவற்றை மேலும் விரிவடையவும் செய்தார்.

"தாய் எட்டடி பாய்ந்தால், குட்டி பதினாறு அடி பாயும்" என்பது போல, பல அம்சங்களில் தந்தையாரையும் விஞ்சி காரியங்கள் செய்திருக்கிறார். அதற்கு ஆரம்பம் முதலே ஊக்கமும் உற்சாகமும் அளித்த தந்தையாரை என்றும் மறவாமல் தினந்தோறும் அவரை வணங்குவதையே முதல் வேலையாக கொண்டிருந்தார் ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார்.

தமிழிசை இயக்கமும் அத்துடன் இதர தமிழ் கலைகளும் மேலும் மேலும் சிறப்புற, தமிழிசை சங்கத்தைத் தொடர்ந்து நடத்தியதுடன் அதனை மேலும் பலப்படுத்தினார்.

அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக் கழகத்தில் பல புதிய துறைகளைத் தோற்றுவித்து கல்விப்பணியில் சிறப்பான தொண்டாற்றினார். அங்கு மருத்துவக் கல்லூரி உருவாக வழி வகுத்தார்.

தொழில் துறையில் பல விரிவாக்கங்களுக்கு அடிகோலி வேலை வாய்ப்புக்களை மேலும் பெருக்கினார்.

அரசியலிலும் ஈடுபட்டு அளப்பரிய சேவை புரிந்தார் ராஜா சர். இருபத்து எட்டு வயதிலேயே சென்னை மாநகராட்சியில் நகரத் தந்தையாகவும் முதல் மேயராகவும் விளங்கினார். அதற்கு முன் மேயர் பதவி என்பதாக ஒன்று கிடையாது. ராஜா சர் மேயர் பதவிக்கு உண்டான கண்ணியத்தைக் காத்ததுடன், அப்பதவிக் குரிய சிம்மாசனம், ஆபரணம், செங்கோல் ஆகியவற்றையும் தமது பொறுப்பிலேயே செய்து மாநகராட்சிக்கு அளித்தார். அடுத்தடுத்து வந்த மேயர்கள் அவர் அளித்தனவற்றையே பயன்படுத்தினர்.

அந்நாளிலேயே சேரி ஒழிப்பில் அசாதாரண ஈடுபாடு காட்டினார் முத்தையா செட்டியார். ஏழைகளுக்கு மாற்றுக் குடியிருப்புக்கள் உருவாகத் திட்டம் வகுத்தளித்தார். இது மாநகராட்சியின் ஒரு பணியாகவே நடந்தது என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது!

தொடக்கத்தில் நீதிக் கட்சியில் ஈடுபாடு கொண்டிருந்த ராஜா சர், எம்.எல்.ஸி.ஆக விளங்கியும் அறநிலையப்பாதுகாப்பு மற்றும் உள்ளாட்சித் துறை அமைச்சராக இருந்தும் திறம்பட நிர்வாகம் செய்தார். எம்.எல்.ஏ., எம்.எல்.ஸி. என இரு விதமாகவும் சுமார் ஐம்பது ஆண்டுகள் சட்டமன்ற பணி ஆற்றி தமது அறிவும் அனுபவமும் ஆட்சியாருக்குக் கொடுத்து உதவினார்.

இந்தி எதிர்ப்புப் போராட்டம் நடந்த போது, ராஜா சர், காங்கிரஸ் கட்சி சார்பாளராக இருந்த போதிலும், இந்தி திணிக்கப்படக் கூடாது என்று உறுதியாகக் குரல் கொடுத்து, சுயசிந்தனையும் சுதந்திர வேட்கையும் உடையவராகத் தம்மை நிரூபித்துக்கொண்டார். கட்சி அரசியல் என்பது தலையாட்டிப் பொம்மையாகச் செயல்படுவதும் அல்ல; குழாயடி சண்டைபோல் குடுமிபிடி யுத்தம் நடத்துவதும் அல்ல என்பதை நிரூபித்தார். உட்கட்சி ஜனநாயகத்தில் கருத்துச் சுதந்திரம் உண்டு; அதனைக் கண்ணியமாக வெளிப்படுத்தும் முறையும் உண்டு என்பதற்கு ராஜா சர் அவர்கள் நடந்து கொண்ட விதம் ஒரு எடுத்துக்காட்டு.

ராஜா சர் அவர்களுக்கு இருந்த தமிழன்பு அளவிட முடியாதது. அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக் கழக இணைவேந்தர் என்ற முறையில் சிறந்த தமிழ் ஆராய்ச்சிகளுக்கு உதவி, அற்புதமான நூல்கள் பல உருவாக வழி வகுத்தார். சதாசிவபண்டாரத்தாரும் அவருடைய ஆராய்ச்சிக்கு ஆதரவு தந்த அண்ணாமலைப் பல்கலைக் கழகமும் இல்லையெனில் அமரர் "கல்கி" அவர்களுடைய மகத்தான படைப்பான "பொன்னியின் செல்வன்" உருவாகியிருக்க முடியுமா என்பது சந்தேகம் தான்!

தமிழ்ப்பற்று மிகுந்தவராக விளங்கியதால் ஆங்கிலத்தின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை ராஜா சர் என்றும் குறைத்து மதிப்பிட்ட தில்லை. அதன் அவசியத்தையும் அதனை நன்கு பயில வேண்டியது குறித்தும் பல முறை வலியுறுத்தி மாணவ ரிடையேயும் பிறரிடமும் பேசி இருக்கிறார்.

பலதுறைகளில் ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் கொடிகட்டிப் பறந்த போதிலும், அவை எல்லாவற்றையும் விட முக்கியமானதாகக் குறிப்பிட வேண்டியது அவர் சிறந்த பண்பாளராக விளங்கினார் என்பதைத்தான். சிறியோன், பெரியோன் என்றோ, பணக்காரன், பாமரன் என்றோ, அறிவாளி, அஞ்ஞானி என்றோ பாராமல், அனைவரிடமும் இன்முகம் காட்டி புன்னகைத் தவழும் வதனத்துடன் பேசுவார். ஒருவர் அவருக்கு அறிமுகமான மறு கணமே அவருக்கு மிகவும் நெருங்கிய ஒரு நண்பர் போல உயர்வார் எனில், அது முத்தையா செட்டியார் நிகழ்த்திய ஒரு மாயாஜால அற்புதம்! அதற்குக் காரணம், அவரது உள்ளத்தின் அன்பு கண்ணுக்குத் தெரியாவிட்டாலும் நம்மைச் சூழ்ந்து குளிர்விப்பதை உணரமுடிந்ததுதான். அவருடைய அந்த கம்பீர உயரமான தோற்றம் ஏற்படுத்தும் ஒரு மரியாதையோடு கூடவே, அவரது புன்னகையும் குழைவும் அச்சத்தை நீக்கி, நம்மை மனம் விட்டுப் பேசச் செய்யும். அவரும் கருத்துடன் கேட்டுக் கொண்டு தமது யோசனைகளைச் சொல்வார். அப்போது "அட, இந்தப் பிரச்சனைக் குறித்து இவர் இவ்வளவு தெரிந்து வைத்திருக்கிறாரே!" என்ற பிரமிப்பு நமக்கு ஏற்படும்.

ஒரு முறை அவரை நான் காணச்சென்றிருந்த போது தொலைக்காட்சியில் கிரிக்கட் மாட்ச் பார்த்துக் கொண்டிருந்தார். ஆனால் நேர்முக வர்ணனை வித்தயாசமாக ஒலித்தது. நான் சற்று

குழம்பி நிற்பதைப் பார்த்துப் புன்முறுவலுடன் தம் அருகே சோபாவில் இருந்த சிறிய டிரான்ஸிஸ்டர் ரேடியோவை உயர்த்திக் காட்டினார்! தொலைக்காட்சியின் நேரடி ஒளிபரப்போடு வானொலியின் நேர்முக வர்ணனையை இணைத்து ரசித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார் என்பது புரிந்தது!

விளையாட்டுக்களில் அவருக்கு ஆர்வம் அதிகம். தூர்தர்ஷனை வற்புறுத்தி விம்பிள்டன் ஆட்டத்தை நேரடி ஒளிபரப்பாக மக்கள் காண வழிவகுத்தார். அன்று அவர் விதைத்த வித்து தான் இன்று பெறுமரமாக வளர்ந்து உலக அரங்கில் நடக்கும் எத்தனையோ ஸ்போர்ட்ஸ் நிகழ்ச்சிகளை நாம் தொலைக்காட்சியில் காண வழி பிறந்திருக்கிறது.

குறளாசிரியர் சொன்னார்:

ஊருணி நீர்நிறைந் தற்றே உலகலாம்
பேரறி வாளன் திரு.

அவ்வாறு இந்தப் பெருந்தகையின் செல்வம் ஊருணி நீர்ப்போல சமுதாயத்திற்கு பயன்பட்டது. கிணற்றில் நீர் சுரப்பது போல இவரிடம் செல்வம் வற்றாது சுரந்துகொண்டும் இருந்தது.

அன்னாரைத் தொடர்ந்து அவரது அன்பு மகன் டாக்டர் எம்.ஏ.எம். ராமசாமி அவர்களும் பாரம்பரியப் பெருமை காப்பதுடன் அந்தப் பெருமைக்கும் பெருமை சேர்த்து வருகிறார்.

ராஜா சர் குடும்பத்தினர் போல் எல்லோரும் செல்வந்தர்களாகி விட முடியாது; வாரி வழங்கவும் இயலாது. ஆனால் முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்களைப் போல் பரந்த உள்ளம் படைத்த வராகவும் பண்பாளராகவும் யாருமே முயன்றால் இருக்கலாம். நம்மால் இயன்ற சமுதாயப் பணி ஆற்றலாம். அச்சமின்றி வாழலாம். அன்பு செலுத்தப் பழகலாம். தூய உள்ளத்துடன் விளங்கலாம். இறை உணர்வோடு கடமை ஆற்றலாம்.

செல்வத்துள் சிறந்த செல்வம் செம்மையான வாழ்க்கையே என்பதற்கு எடுத்துக்காட்டாக விளங்கியவர் ராஜா சர் முத்தையா செட்டியார் ஆவார்.

THE ILLUSTRIOUS SON OF CHETTINAD

V. KARTHIKEYAN, I.A.S. (Retd.)
Former Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu

I am extremely happy to learn that the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is going to unveil the statue of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar, the First Mayor of Madras, on 21.10.1994. I had the good fortune of knowing this illustrious son of Chettinad for many years and I have always admired his simple trimness, eloquent speeches, deep national spirit, sincere commitment to the cause of education and personal charm. His is a multi-sided personality, with glorious achievements in every field he entered. As a Legislator and Parliamentarian, he was superb in bold and frank expression of views even on controversial issues. He did yeoman service to the City as its First Mayor. Following the foot steps of his noble father, Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, who founded the Annamalai University, he nursed it very carefully and imaginatively and raised it to a pre-eminent status among the Indian Universities. He was a great lover of all fine arts and music and did his best to promote them and make them popular among the masses. He was a gifted administrator and a loving and lovable friend.

DR. RAJAH SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR —
A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW

K.S. NARAYANAN

Chairman

CHEMPLAST

I am happy to be asked to add to the bouquet of tributes paid to Dr. Rajah Sir M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad on the occasion of the unveiling of his statue in the Ripon Building Complex,where he strode like a colossus as the first Mayor of Madras, a little over sixty years ago.

Though he was a contemporary of my father, I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Rajah Sir on many occasions. I was stuck by his disarming humility, legendary hospitality and charming and intimate conversation laced with jokes and anecdotes. In a sense, he was like a bridge between the old and the new.

Dr. Rajah Sir M.A.Muthiah Chettiar was one of the eminent sons of India whose many - splendoured achievements in nation building will be enshrined in the annals of our country. As a progressive thinker, he greatly enriched the activities pertaining to education, industry, banking, commerce, development of Tamil and Tamil Isai Movement. His services to the country will always remains an inspiration to the younger generation who will do well to emulate his example.

A GREAT ENTREPRENEUR AND CITIZEN OF THE WORLD : DR. RAJAH SIR M.A. MUTHIAH CHETTIAR (1905-1984)

DR. VEDAGIRI SHANMUGASUNDARAM

Former Vice-Chancellor, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University &

Emeritus Professor of Economics, Madras University

To write on our most respected and honoured elder statesman, banker, industrialist and educational entrepreneur by one who had known him in many spheres of Indian and international public affairs, is a challenging task. He was outstanding by position of his birth, choice of public activities and stature. His was a majestic and valued presence in University Convocations, Tamil Isai Sangam gatherings, Chambers of Commerce, weddings, and many festive functions, of his ever widening circle of friends and wellwishers. And to have known him was to count him as benefactor, generous host of phenomenal memory, and yet ever-forgiving and ever-cheerful adviser and counsellor. Between 1930 and 1984, he was the most sought after dignitary for all national and international economics, commercial and industrial gatherings and conferences. He would regale the audience in his inimitable string of anecdotes, and rich encounters on a worldwide reach. I recall how when the British Prime Minister Mr.Harold Macmillan, came to Madras, to call on his friend Dr. Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, he did not miss meeting Dr. Rajah Sir. Most welcome part of his meeting was the interest in the cause of English language, which we and Rajah admired.

BANKING & INDUSTRIAL ENTREPRENEUR

The Rajah carved a niche of honour for himself in the wider sphere of commerce, money, banking and industry. The Nagarathar Chettiars were merchant bankers for several centuries in the Asia Pacific region. The Rajah and his father earlier, were in the 20th century among the reputed bankers and traders, besides being educationists. Their links with the foremost banks of the

world, and the Britishers gave them an advantage which few merchant classes possessed. The large fortunes they made before the World War II, were affected when the nationalism and socialism, took root in those countries. Even then, the Rajah was the leader of the commercial and trading classes, in moving resolutions in the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, (FICCI) in support of them, and following it as FICCI President.

The qualities which I have noticed in the Rajah Saheb, rare among persons of his standing, status, such high positions as twice Minister in the Madras Presidency (most parts of south India), are affability and willingness to treat all his hosts, high and not so high, rich or poor, foreign or Indian, with equal kindness and high measure of hospitality. If only the steps of Chettinad House, could speak, we would have legendary tales of his utmost courtesy. This has won for him friends in all walks of life. He was an outspoken legislator, having been in the Madras Legislative Council for many years. His directorship of many industrial and commercial houses did indeed take much of his time; nevertheless he found enough time to advise his friends, whenever they were in need. During my State Planning Commission Membership days, when my responsibilities were for Fiscal Policy, Finance, Debt., Expenditure, Higher Education, and Rural Development, he spared so much time to discuss the nuances of public administration and governmental policy making, that it would require another article exclusively for it. Often he expressed his deep desire to expand medical education and technical education so that Tamil Nadu could keep pace with the rest of India and the world. He has visited most of the countries, and more than that innumerable experts from other countries called on him. His knowledge of world affairs was matched only by his judgement of men and matters. When he was given Honorary Doctorate at the time of the 125th Anniversary of the University of Madras, I was on the Senate and Committee to pass the Graces, for his award, and I

considered it rare honour to have been associated with the applied economist and practical banker and industrialist, in the Madras University Convocation of 1982-83.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Rajah had many firsts to his credit. He was the first Permanent Chairman of the Indian Bank; till then the Directors used to preside by rotation. He was the First Mayor of Madras. He was Trustee of the Pachaiyappa's Charities for the longest period i.e., 35 years continuously. He was perhaps the youngest Minister, to be twice appointed. He was surely the first among the participants in social, cultural and music festivals. And yet, he was soft spoken and quite kind and affable. He was a recipient of many honours; and he honoured in turn many in varied walks of life. Some of the outstanding persons in the educational field, Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, Dr. R.K. Shanmukam Chetty, T.S. Katchapikesa Mudaliar, Dr. S. Manavalaramanujam, Dr. Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar and Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Prof. Dr. S.V. Chittibabu, were some of his close associates in the educational activities, and foundations. He chose the Professors in the Annamalai University and Pachaiyappa's College with great care and his respect for teachers was commendable. Prof. R. Krishnamurti was his tutor during his under-graduate days, and even after the Rajah became the Pro-Chancellor of Annamalai University, his respect for Guru remained as dutiful as ever before. Some of the teachers he appointed and promoted as Professors and Principals, at times rebelled, and were inconsiderate, but Rajah was all forgiveness and generous, which qualities, made him universally respected. I know of many such events in his long educational leadership. The Pachaiyappa's Trust Board, had the unique record of encouraging outstanding Professors of national and interantional repute like, Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy and Prof. Selvam of Cambridge, Dr. B.V. Narayanaswamy Naidu and Prof. C.D. Rajesvaran of London University, Professor C.S. Srinivasachari, T.K. Venkataraman,

M. Varadarajan of high academic standing at home and abroad. Dr. C.N. Annadurai (Anna) was a student of the Pachaiyappa's College, and he held the Rajah in high esteem for all the good deeds.

Father of the Rajah, founded the Annamalai University on the Model of Oxford residential system and tutorship. Oxford is for excellence in English; Annamalai stood for Tamil studies long before a Tamil University was founded. Both the Founder and his son and Grandson, have spent a major share of their time and resources in building the Annamalai University. The dream of founding a Medical College was realised by Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy. The entire family and the kinsmen are known to have fostered Tamil Isai which had no patron for several centuries. The Tamil Isai Sangam and the Annamalai Manram were among the earliest institutions built on a scale and standing unknown till then. Rajahs fervour to inculcate the taste for studies in English, the main international language was witnessed by me as Secretary of the Convention for the Place of English in the Education System (1967) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar, and leadership of Mr. C. Rajagopalachari and the participants included Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Mr. M.V. Arunachalam, Dr. A. Venugopal, Dr. V.R. Nedunchezian. Rajah gave a valuable address and encouraged us all. Tamil and English are official languages of Tamil Nadu. Both of them were zealously guarded by the Rajah. He organised many Silver, Golden, Diamond, Platinum and Centenary functions, for others. We should now brace ourselves to organise a fitting Centenary of the Rajah in 2005. In the worlds of Francis Bacon: "If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows he is citizen of the World". Rajah was indeed a citizen of the world.

மனிதருள் மாணிக்கம்

ஆர்.கே. அண்ணாசாமி
மாநிலத் தலைவர்
தமிழ்நாடு விஸ்வகர்மா நல்வாழ்வுச் சங்கம்

மனிதருள் மாணிக்கம் போன்ற மங்காப் புகழோடு இன்னும் நம் நினைவில் ஒளிவிட்டு பிரகாசித்து வரும் செட்டி நாட்டு அரசர் டாக்டர் ராஜா சர் எம்.ஏ. முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்கள் தன் பிறப்பிற்கும், இறப்பிற்கும் இடையே சிறப்பு மிக வாழ்ந்தார் என்பது போற்றர்க்குரிய ஒன்றாகும்.

செட்டிநாட்டு அரசர் அவர்கள் பிறவியிலேயே இறைத் தன்மையோடு பிறந்து அரசக் குடும்பத்தின் அந்தஸ்தை உயர்த்திய மாமேதை என்பது நாடறிந்த உண்மை. இப் பெருந்தகையார் கானாடுகாத்தானில் பிறந்து வளர்ந்தவர். இறையருள் பெயர் கொண்ட அண்ணாமலையாரின் திருமகனாவார்.

நமது மதிப்பிற்குரிய செட்டி நாட்டு அரசர் டாக்டர் ராசா சர் எம்.ஏ. முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்கள் இயற்கையிலேயே மனித சமுதாய வாழ்க்கையின் அடிப்படை தத்துவமாக கல்வி, வணிகம், தமிழிசை, தமிழ் வளர்ச்சி மற்றும் அரசியல் போன்ற துறைகளில் சிறப்புமிக்க ஸ்ரீவில்லிபுத்தூர் கோபுரமெனத் திகழ்ந்தவர். இதுவே நமது செட்டி நாட்டு அரசரின் சிறப்பேயாகும்.

அரசக் குடும்பத்தில் பிறந்து, வளர்ந்தாலும், அவரிடம் அவையடக்கத்தோடு, அணுகும் முறை, அன்பாக பேசிப் பழகும் தன்மை, யாவரையும் அரவணைத்துச்செல்லும் பக்குவம், நேர்மை, சாதனை, ஈட்டலில் காட்டும் ஊக்கம், சிந்தனை ஆகிய இவைகளின் போற்றதற்குரிய வண்ணக் கலவையாகத் திகழ்ந்தவர். அன்னாரின் வாழ்க்கைக் குறிப்புகள் பல முகப்புகளைக் கொண்டதாகும்.

ஒரு தமிழ் அறிஞர் கூறியது போல் முள்ளில்லா ரோஜா, எவ்வளவு அருமையானதோ அவ்வளவு அருமையுடன் கூடிய செருக்கில்லாத செல்வந்தராகவும், செழுமைமிக்க கோமகனாகவும், 'செல்வந்தர்க்கழகு, செழுங்கிளைத் தாங்குதல்' என்ற மூதறிஞர்களின் முதுமொழிக்கேற்ப, குறைபடா நெஞ்சத்தோடு வாழ்ந்தவர் நம் அரசர் அவர்களாகும்.

மகன் தந்தைக்காற்றும் நன்றி இவன் தந்தை என் நோற்றான் கொல்' என்ற வள்ளுவரின் வாக்கை மெய்ப்பிக்கும் வகையில் தன் தந்தையின் பெயராலேயே அமைந்த அண்ணாமலை பல்கலைக் கழகத்தில் இணைவேந்தராக 36 ஆண்டுகளும், எக்குறையுமின்றி, எல்லா நலனும், பல்கலைக் கழகத்தில் செய்வித்து பெரும்புகழை நிலை நாட்டிய பெருமை அவரையே சாரும்.

டாக்டர் ராஜா சர் அவர்கள் 24 வயதிலேயே அரசியல் வாழ்வைத் தொடங்கி பெருமையுற்றார். சென்னை நகராட்சி தலைவராக 1929-ல் அன்றைய சென்னை அரசாங்கத்தால் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டார். அதுவரை தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பெற்றவர்களில் அவரே மிகவும் இளையவர். 1931-ம் ஆண்டு நவம்பர் திங்களில் சென்னை நகராட்சியின் தலைவராக ஒருமனதாக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டார். 1933 - பிப்ரவரித் திங்களில் அவரது பெரு முயற்சியினால் தோற்றுவிக்கப்பட்ட மேயர் பதவி அவருக்கே அளிக்கப்பட்டது. முதன் முதலில் ராஜ்குமார் மு.அ.முத்தையா செட்டியார் என்று மரியாதையோடு அழைக்கப்பட்ட அவர் சென்னை மாநகர வரலாற்றிலேயே முதல் மற்றும் மிகவும் இளமையான மேயர் என்ற இணையற்றச் சிறப்பைப் பெற்றார். மீண்டும் மேயராக 1934-35ம் ஆண்டிலும், ஏகமனதாக இவர் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டார். இவருடைய செம்மாந்த வாழ்க்கையில் இவ்விரண்டு ஆண்டுகளும் ஒரு வரலாற்று திருப்புமுனையாக அமைந்தது. மேயர் பொறுப்பு ஏற்ற பிறகு, சென்னை சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினராகவும், அதன் பிறகு, சென்னை மாநில அரசாங்கத்தின் கல்வி அமைச்சராகவும், அதைத் தொடர்ந்து 1941-ல் இந்திய பாதுகாப்புக் குழுவிலே உறுப்பினராகவும் ஆனது ஒரு வியத்தகு சாதனையாகும்.

ராஜ்குமார் முத்தையா செட்டியார் அவர்கள் தாம் மேயராக பதவி வகித்தபோது சென்னை மாநகரின் அமைப்பிற்கும், அழகிற்கும், ஆட்சிக்கும், நகர மக்களின் நல்வாழ்விற்கும், ஆற்றிய பணிகள் அவருடைய புகழை உயர்த்தின. மாநகரின் பெருஞ்சாலைகளையும், ஏழை மக்கள் வாழ்ந்த சிறு தெருக்களையும், நேரில் கவனித்து ஆவன செய்தார். நகரத்துச் சேரிகளை ஒழிக்கப் பெரும் முயற்சி மேற்கொண்டார். சென்னையில் வானொலி நிலையம் ஒன்றும், டெலிபோன் கம்பெனி ஒன்றும் முதன் முதலில் உருவாகச்செய்தார். இதுவே

இந்தியாவின் முதல் வானொலி நிலையமும், டெலிபோன் கம்பெனியுமாகும். மேயருக்குரிய தனி உடையும், விலை உயர்ந்த பொற் பதக்கமும், வீற்றிருக்கத்தக்க ஆசனமும், பிற சிறப்புக்களும் ஏற்படுத்தி, மேயர் பதவிக்கு ஒளியூட்டினார். சென்னை மாநகராட்சி சட்டத்தினை 500 விதிகளைக் கொண்டதாகச் சட்டசபையில் திருத்தியமைத்தார். பிராமணர், கிருஸ்தவர், முஸ்லீம் போன்றவர்களும், மேயராக வர வேண்டும் என "ரொடேஷன் சிஸ்டம்" கொண்டு வந்து, அதை மாநகராட்சியில் சட்டமாக்கி அமுலுக்கும் கொண்டு வந்தார். அந்த சட்டத்தின் அடிப்படையில் பலர் மேயராக வரும் காட்சியை கண்டுகளித்து வந்துள்ளோம்.

"நீரளவே யாகுமாம் நீராம்பல்" என்ற சங்ககாலப் புலவரின் வாக்கிற்கொப்ப, ஆம்பல் மலரானது நீர் நிலையத்திற்கு ஏற்றார்போல், கொடித்தண்டினை உயர்த்தியும், தாழ்த்தியும், அம்மலரானது மலர்ந்த எத்தன்மையோடு காட்சியளிக்கின்றதோ அத்தன்மை போன்று செட்டி நாட்டு அரசர் அவர்கள் ஏழை, எளியோர் முதல், ஏற்றமிகு செல்வச் செம்மல்கள் வரை, அவரவர்கள் கருத்திற்கேற்ப - கால நிலைக்கேற்ப, மலர்ந்த முகத்துடன், கடுஞ்சொல் ஏதுமின்றி காண்போர் வியக்கும் வண்ணம் இன்சொல்லால் இன்புறச் செய்வித்து, எதிர்பார்த்து வந்தவர்களின் எண்ணங்களுக்கு ஏமாற்றமின்றி இயன்ற அளவிற்கு அவர்களின் இன்னலைப்போக்கி தன்னிலைக்குண்டான உபசரணைகளை செய்வித்து, அவர்கள் உண்டு களித்து வருவதைக்கண்டு களிப்பதில் அளவிலா மகிழ்ச்சி கொண்டு அரண்மனை வாயில் முகப்புவரை வந்து இருகரம் கூப்பி வழியனுப்பிவைத்த பான்மை, அரசருக்குரிய ஒரு தனிச் சிறப்பு ஆகும். அவரது அச்செயல்கள் யாவும் இன்றும் பாமரமக்களின் இதயங்களில் மங்கா மாணிக்க ஒளியாக திகழ்ந்து வருகின்றது.

இயல் - இசை - நாடகம், என்ற முத்தமிழ் கண்ட மதுரை மாநகரின்கண், "இசைக்கு இசையாதார் எவ்வகைக்கும் இசையார்" என்ற இசையின் தத்துவத்தையுணர்ந்த அவரது திருத்தந்தையார் போன்று நமது அரசர் அவர்கள், அவ்விசைக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் அளித்து "தமிழ் இசைச்சங்கம்" ஒன்றை நிறுவி - அதற்கான ஆக்க பூர்வாங்க வேலைகளில் ஈடுபட்டு, அதற்கென்றே மாபெரும் இசை மாளிகையை, உருவாக்கி தமிழ் இசை வளர்ச்சியில்

எக்குறையுமின்றி, அக்கரையைக் காட்டி, பாடுபட்டு வளர்த்தமை குறித்து, இத்திருமகனார் தமிழ் இசை வளர்ச்சியில் எத்தகைய ஆர்வம் கொண்டிருந்தார் என்பது உள்ளங்கையில் நெல்லிக்கனிபோன்று காட்சியளித்து வருகின்றது.

செல்வத்துள் செல்வமாங்கே செல்வம் செழிக்கச்செய்ய அச் செல்வத்தையே செல்வமாக வளர்க்க எண்ணி, செட்டி நாட்டரசர் முதன் முதலில் தோற்றுவித்த, "இம்பீரியல் பேங்க்" நாளடைவில் வளர்ச்சி அடைய அதன் பயன்களைக் கண்ட மத்திய அரசினால் ஸ்டேட் பேங் ஆப் இந்தியாவாக மாறி இன்று காட்சியளித்து வருகின்றது. பின்னர் இத்திருமகனாரின் பெருமுயற்சியால், இன்டியன் வங்கியைத் துவக்கி அதன் மூலம் பல்லாயிரம் குடும்பங்கள் வாழச் செய்து வந்தார். அது இன்று அரசுடைமை வங்கியாக மாற்றப்பட்டாலும், அந்த வங்கியின் கிளைகள், பட்டிதொட்டியெல்லாம் பரவி, பலன் பெரும் எளிய மக்களின் இதயங்களில் நீங்கா இடம் பெற்று திகழ்கின்றது என்பதுவும் போற்றற்கரியச் செயலே.

சென்னை மாநிலத்திற்கு "தமிழ்நாடு" என்ற பெயர் வைப்பதற்கு முன்பே, நகரத்தார் வாழ்ந்து வரும் பகுதிகளுக்கு "செட்டிநாடு" என்ற பெயரை வைத்து சிறப்புற வாழ்ந்து வரும் பெருமை, நமது அரசரின் குடும்பத்தையே சாரும்.

அறிஞர் அண்ணா அவர்கள் முதல் அமைச்சராக இருந்த கால்த்தில், மத்திய அரசின் ஒப்புதல் பெற்று தமிழ் மாநிலத்திற்கு தமிழ்நாடு என்ற பெயர் வைக்கப்பட்டது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

செட்டிநாடு சிறப்புப் பெயர் பெற்ற நகரத்தார் வழிதோன்றிய அரசர் அவர்கள், தாம் வாழும் இல்லங்களுக்கெல்லாம், "செட்டிநாடு இல்லம்" எனச் சிறப்பு பெயர் சூட்டி சிறப்புறச் செய்வித்தோடு, "செட்டிநாடு சிமெண்டு" என்ற நிறுவனத்தை நிறுவி, அந்த சிமெண்டும், இன்று விற்பனை மார்க்கட்டில் விரு விருப்பையுண்டாக்கி வருகின்றது என்றால், அத்தனை பெருமைகளும் அரசருக்குரியவைகளே!

மனு, மயன், துவஸ்ட சிற்பி, விஸ்வக்கினி என்னும் கருமார், தச்சர், கன்னார், சிற்பி, பொற்கொல்லர் ஆகிய நுண்ணறிவு கைவினைஞர்களான ஐந்தொழிலாளர்கள் உள்ளடங்கிய சமுதாயம்தான் "விஸ்வகர்மா சமுதாயம்".

'விஸ்வம்' என்றால் உலகம் - 'கர்மா' என்றால் படைப்பு கர்த்தா. இவர்கள் கைத் தொழில் ரீதியில் உலகமக்களுக்கு வேண்டிய உபகரணங்களை செய்வித்து அவர்களின் நலன் கருதி வாழ்ந்து வருபவர்கள் தான் விஸ்வகர்மாவினர்.

இத்தகைய விஸ்வகர்மாவின் ஒரு பிரிவினர்தான், சிற்பிகள் எனப்படுவர். இறையருள் நம்பிக்கையுடன் வாழ்ந்துவரும் நகரத்தார் இல்லையேல், சிற்பிகளுமில்லை, சிற்பங்களும் இல்லை. சிற்பிகளின் குறையினைப் போக்கி இறைத் தன்மையை மனித சமுதாயத்திற்கு அச்செல்வந்தர்கள் தான் ஆலயத் திருப்பணிக்கு அளவிட முடியாத அளவிற்கு செல்வங்களை அள்ளிக் கொடுத்து, ஆலயத் திருப்பணிகளை செய்துவருவதோடு, அதில் ஈடுபட்டுவரும் சிற்பிகளின் குடும்பங்களை வாழவைத்து வருகிறார்கள். இந்தப் பெருமை அவர்களையே சாரும்.

வானளாவிய, மாட மாளிகை முதல், மண் குடிசைகள் வரையில் விஸ்வகர்மாக்களின் கைவேலைகள், சிறந்து விளங்கி வருகின்றன. இரும்பு, மரம், உலோகம், கட்டிட மனை அமைப்பு, தங்க ஆபரணங்கள் இவைகளை உருவாக்கித் தருவது இந்த ஐந்தொழிலாளர்கள் என்பது யாவரும் அறிந்ததே.

இத்தகைய கைவண்ணக் கலைஞர்களை ஊக்குவித்து அவர்களின் குடும்பங்களை வாழவைத்து வரும் பெருமை நகரத்தாரையே சாரும் என்பதை நாம் இன்றும் கண்டு வருகிறோம்.

இவ்வழித் தோன்றிய செல்வச்சீமான், தொழில் மேதை, டாக்டர் ராஜா சர் அண்ணாமலைச் செட்டியார் அவர்கள் இன்று சென்னையிலேயே சிறந்து விளங்கிவரும் அடையாறு, செட்டிநாடு, அரண்மனை (செட்டிநாட் அவுஸ்)-யை அரசர் அவர்கள் செல்வங்களை அள்ளிக் கொடுத்திருந்தாலும், அழகுமிளிரும் அற்புத கைவண்ணச் சித்திரங்கள், வாயிலையும், முற்றத்தையும் அழகுபடுத்திக் கொண்டு இருக்கின்றன. இத்தகைய சிற்ப தச்சுக்கலையை, திரு. டி.எம். தெய்வசிகாமணி ஆச்சாரி அவர்கள் கைவண்ணத்தோடு, தச்சுக் கலைவடிக்கும் ஆட்களைக் கொண்டு செய்து முடித்து இன்றும் சிறப்புற விளங்கி வருவதைக் கண்டு மகிழ்ச்சியடைகின்றோம். அத்துடன் சிதம்பரம் அண்ணாமலை பல்கலைக் கழகத்தையும், அரசருடன் அயல்நாடு சென்று அங்குள்ள பல்கலைக் கழகங்களை காண்பித்து அதேபோலமைத்து, அவையும் இன்று கல்வி ஸ்தாபனங்களில் சொல்லொணாப்

பெருமையை அடைந்து வருகின்றது. பிறவியிலேயே தொழில் அறிவு படைத்த இச் சமுதாய மக்கள் பள்ளிக்குச் சென்று பயிலுவது மிக மிகக் குறைவே.

அரசரின் திருமகனாரான, டாக்டர் ராஜா சர் எம்.ஏ. முத்தையாச் செட்டியார் அவர்கள் தன் தந்தையின் பெருமையை உலகுக்கு எடுத்துக்காட்ட எடுத்துக்கொண்ட முயற்சிகள் எண்ணிலடங்காதவைகள். தந்தையைப் போன்று, மகனும், விஸ்வகர்மா சமுதாய மக்களுக்கு அவர் விட்டுச் சென்ற குறைகளை எல்லாம் நிறைவு செய்து அண்ணாமலை பல்கலைக் கழகத்தில் பொறியியல் கல்லூரியில் இடமளித்து பல விஸ்வகர்ம குடும்பங்கள் கல்வித்துறையில் மேம்பாடு அடையச் செய்த பெருமை செட்டிநாடு அரசரையே சாரும்.

விஸ்வகர்மா மக்களின் நன்றியைத் தெரிவிக்கும் வகையில், சென்னை மாநகராட்சி முதல் மேயராக இருந்து, சிறப்புற பணியாற்றியதைப் பாராட்டி, அத்திருமகனாருக்கு, சென்னை மாநகராட்சி கட்டிட வளாகத்திலேயே வெண்கல திரு உருவச் சிலையை திறந்து வைக்க, தமிழ்நாடு விஸ்வகர்ம நல்வாழ்வுச் சங்கம் அரசின் அனுமதி பெற்று சிலையை நிறுவியுள்ளது. என்பதுடன் கடந்த 21.12.1987ல் 60 காசு சிறப்புத் தலையையும் மத்திய அரசு ஒப்புதல் பெற்று வெளியிட்டு சிறப்போங்கச் செய்துள்ளது.

எண்ணர்கரிய செயலைச் செய்து சிறப்படைந்த அம்மாமனிதர் மெய் வருத்தம் பாரார், பசி நோக்கார், இரவு பகல் பாராது, கருமமே கண்ணாயினார் என்று கூறும் வகையில் கடினமான உழைப்பால் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட நிறுவனங்கள் பலப் பல.

ஈட்டல்-காத்தல்-வகுத்தல் என்ற தமது தந்தையாரின் பொன்மொழியை விண் நிலவின் ஒளியாய், குன்றின்மீது விளக்காய், கோபுரத்தின் கலசமாய் மனதில் பதிய வைத்து வையத்துள் வாழ்வாங்கு வாழ்ந்து, வாழ்க்கையின் நெறிமுறை தத்துவங்களை மெய்ப்பித்துக் காட்டிய மாமேதை நமது செட்டிநாட்டு அரசர் டாக்டர் ராஜா சர் எம்.ஏ. முத்தையச் செட்டியார் அவர்களே ஆவார். அத்திருமகனாரின் புகழ், தமிழ் மண்ணில் மட்டுமல்ல, அயல் நாட்டு மண்ணிலும் அடிச்சுவடாய் அமைய அன்னாரின் புகழ் பல்லாண்டு, பல்லாண்டு நிலைத்து ஓங்க எல்லாம் வல்ல இறைவனைப் பிராத்திக்கிறேன்.

நெஞ்சம் திறப்போர் நிற்காண்குவரே !

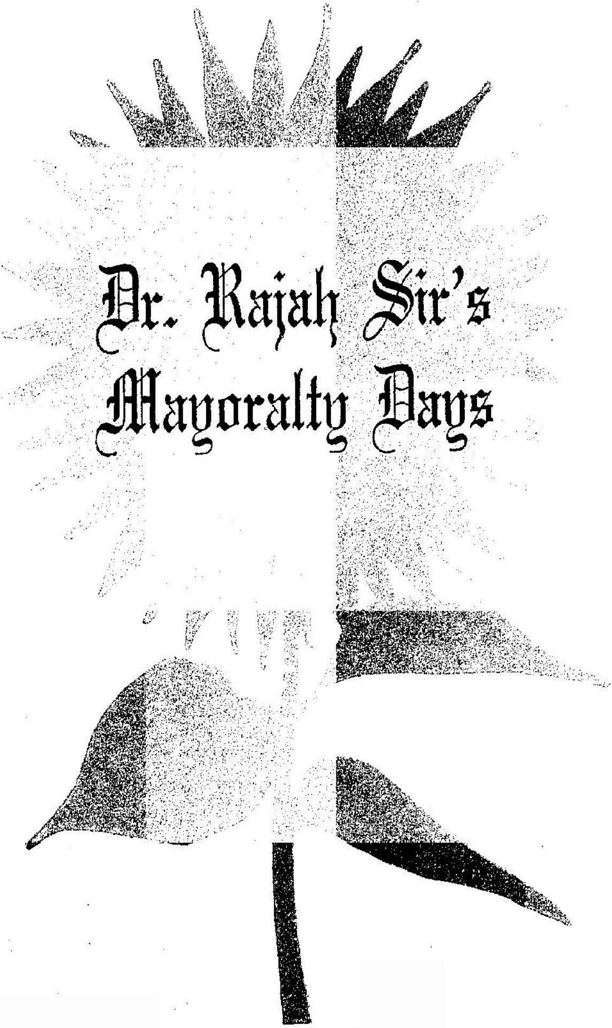
ஔவை நடராசன்
துணைவேந்தர், தமிழ்ப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்

முத்தமிழ் வளர்த்த செட்டிநாட்டரசர் முத்தைய வேளின் நினைவாக அவர்தம் திருவுருவச் சிலையைத் தமிழக முதலமைச்சர் மாண்புமிகு டாக்டர் புரட்சித் தலைவியார் திறந்து வைப்பது தமிழக வரலாற்றுக்குத் தனிப் புகழ் சேர்க்கும் நன்னிகழ்வாக அமைகிறது. 'கோடி கொடுத்த கோமான்' என்றும், தனி ஒருவராகத் தன்னேரில்லாப் பல்கலைக் கழகம் நிறுவிய அருங்கலையரசர் என்றும் அரசர் அண்ணாமலைப் பெருந்தகையை நாம் நாள்தோறும் நினைந்து நெகிழ்கிறோம்.

அரசர் அண்ணாமலையின் அரும்பெரும் புதல்வராகவும், அரசர் பணிகளைத் தொடர்ந்து எழில்பட வளர்த்த முத்தைய வேந்தர் அவர்களின் பெருமை பல்வேறு நிலைகளில் பரந்துபட்ட பன்முக மாட்சி கொண்டதாகும். கருவிலேயே திருவாய்ந்தவராகக் கலை மாட்சி பெற்ற அரசர் முத்தைய வேள் தம் இருபத்து நான்காம் அகவையில் சென்னை மாநகராட்சியின் உறுப்பினராக அமர்ந்தார். இளமையும், செல்வச் செழுமையும், செயலாற்றும் வளமையும் ஆட்சித் தலைமையும் ஒருங்கே வாய்ந்த முத்தைய வேள் சென்னை மாநகராட்சியின் தலைவராகத் திகழ்ந்ததையும், தமிழுலகம் பெருமிதமாகப் பாராட்டி மகிழ்ந்தது. சென்னை மாநகரின் முதல் மேயர் என்னும் தனிச் சிறப்பு செட்டி நாட்டரசர் முத்தைய வேளுக்கே பொருந்தியதாக மிளிர்ந்தது. நம் அன்னைத் திருநகராகிய சென்னை மாநகரைக் கலைகள் வளரும் தலைநகராகவும், நகரத்திற்குள் உயர்ந்தோங்கிய சிகரமாகவும் அமைவதற்கு நம் அரசர் கால்கோள் ஊன்றிய பணிகளைத் தமிழகம் என்றும் மறவாது.

"நெஞ்சம் திறப்போர் நிற்காண்குவரே!" என்னும் பொன்மொழிக்கேற்பத் தமிழ் மக்களின் உள்ளங்களில், நிலைத்த புகழோடு நின்று நிலவும் அரசர் முத்தையவேளின் திருவுருவச் சிலையைத் தமிழக முதலமைச்சர் டாக்டர் புரட்சித் தலைவியார் அவர்கள் இன்று திறந்து வைப்பது பொலிவுக்குப் பொலிவூட்டுவதாகும். சென்னை மாநகரைக் காணவரும் பெருமக்கள் அண்ணாமலை மன்றத்தில் அண்ணாமலை அரசரின் திருவுருவச் சிலையையும், மாநகராட்சி வளாகத்தில் முதல் மேயர் முத்தமிழ் வேந்தர் முத்தைய வேளின் சிலையையும் ஒருசேரக் கண்டு பெருங்களி கூர்வர். அதியமான் நெடுமான் அஞ்சியையும், புகழ் வேந்தர் பொகுட்டெழினியையும் தமிழகத் தலைநகரில் காண்பது போலவே இக்காட்சி திகழும் என்பதில் ஐயமில்லை.

Dr. Rajah Sir's Mayoralty Days



Rajkumar M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad, M.L.C. as the Corporation records and the Legislature records described him, was appointed by the Goverment of Madras to the Council of the Madras Corporation. That was on February 26, 1929. His appointment as a member of the Corporation Council was renewed by the Government on March 1, 1932. On November 2, 1932 he was elected President of the Council, which office he held till 7.3.1933 when under the Madras City (Amendment) Act III of 1933, the President was designated Mayor of the Corporation of Madras and he was duly installed as Mayor at a formal ceremony by the Council at its meeting on 8.3.1933. The object of this amendment to the city Municipal Act was to designate the President of the Corporation as the Mayor. In the unavoidable absence from the Legislative Council of the Hon'ble Rajah of Bobbili at the time this Bill was due to be presented to the Legislative Council, the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur S. Kumarswami Reddiar moved that the Bill be *passed* into Law. While proposing the resolution he stated :

> *"It gives me great pleasure on hehalf of the Hon'ble House to offer it s most sincer congrutulations to my Hon'ble friend, Kurmara Rajah Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad who will be the first Mayor of the City of Madras. It is a dignity which has long been overdue."*

He added that it was a source of very great satisfaction to him that on a par with the Corporations of Bombay and Calcutta, the President of the Corporation of Madras would hereafter be designated as the Mayor of Madras and he congratulated Kumara Rajah Muthiah Chettiar, an Hon'ble member of the house, on his becoming the First Mayor of Madras.

Muthiah Chettiar thus became the First Mayor of Madras and held that office till 7.11.1933, a matter of only eight months instead of the statutory twelve as his election to the Presidentship of the Council took place on 2.11. 1932. On 7.11.1933, a new

The Committee met the same evening in the President's room, and the members unanimously recommednded the following procedure to 'signify the change' when the Presisent was installed as the First Mayor on 8th March 1933.

1. The ex-President, M.R.Ry. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti Garu will occupy the Chair at 5.15 P.M. on 8.3.1933 as soon as the Council meets.

2. The Mayor will be conducted to the Council Chamber from his room by Messrs D.M. Reid, V. Chakkarai Chettiar and Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib. The Manager will precede the procession and announce the entrance of the Mayor. The Councillors will then please rise in their seats.

3. The Chairman will receive the Mayor and install him in the Mayor's seat.

4. The Mayor will bow to both sides of the Council. The Councillors will then resume their seats.

A General Meeting of the Council was held on 8th March 1933 at 5.15 P.M. at which the above mentioned procedure was adopted. When the Mayor took his seat, he was garlanded.

'The New Times' on 9th March 1933 described the proceddings of the installation of the first Mayor as follows:

> *"A procession was formed, the Manager preceding it, and as the Mayor arrived just at the entrance to the Chamber, the Manager announced "the Mayor", as the Secretary to the Legislative Council does when the Hon'ble the President enters the council chamber. The Councillors then rose in their seats, and as the Mayor proceeded to his seat, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty received him, shook hands, installed him in the seat. The Mayor then bowed to both sides of the House after which the Councillors*

I. In order to symbolize the high standing, dignity, impartiality, freedom from paty influences or associatios of the First Citizen of the City, this Council resolves that the Mayor shall have two sets of gowns of the approved pattern : (1) one for ordinary wear during Council meetings; and (2) another for special and ceremonial occasions.

At the time th Mayor attends the Council meetings, he shall wear the ordinary gown made of black silk or other suitable material with gold border, one inch broad, and white bands.

The Mayor shall wear on special and ceremoninal occasions a gown made of velvet or other suitable material of fuschi shade, with a gold lace border of two inches breadth.

The head-dress of the Mayor shall be a lace turban of the Hindu or Muslim type, or a three-cornered hat of black velvet with gold braid closth over it or a tarboosh.

The Corporation shall provide a sum not exceedings Rs.300 for every Mayor for the purpose.

The Mayor may wear court dress on functons such as levees, receptions, and any Corporation public funcitons, etc. and also wear on such occasions, a small badge or insignia of office down below the collar.

II. The Corporation shall provide the Mayor with a gold Mayoral chain with a badge to be worn by him on special and ceremonial occasions. The crest of the Corporation with the words 'Mayor of Madras' shall be put in the badge, and in the centre of the chain, there shall be a block of the Ripon Buildings embossed with the words 'Ripon Buildings, Corporation of Madras.'

The Mayoral chain shal be handed over from Mayor to Mayor, and shall be the property of the Corporation.

III. A Mace with the crest of the Corporation shall be provided.

The Council resolved that a sum of Rs.2,000 be sanctioned for the gold Mayoral chain and the Mace.

IV. A Jamadar on Rs.25-1-30 should be entertained to serve as an attendant on the Mayor, and he shall be the Mace-bearer.

V. The following seating arrangements and alterations in the provision of office-rooms etc. be carried out :

The Mayoral chair shall be placed against the sourthern side of the Council Chamber facing north. The seating arrangement of the Council shall be suitably altered.

A special chair with a canopy and a table similar to those used by the President, Legislative Council, shall be provided for the Mayor.

VI. That His Excellency the Governor be requested to be pleased to assign a much higher rank in the official order of precedence for the Mayor of Madras within the City of Madras.

The following extract form *The Madras Mail of* 27th August 1933 is bound to be interesting :

"The robe worn by the Mayor of Madras is almost a replica of that worn by the Lord Mayor of London, but made to suit the conditions of this country. It is made of specially soft light-weight silk velvet in a rich shade of fuschia, trimmed with gold lace, instead of ermine, and lined with silk.

The Mayors's full court-dress suits, for both day or eveing wear, are made of light-weight black vicuna fully lined with silk, and completey equipped with sword and Mayor's cocked hat. These were made and supplied by Messrs Wrenn, Bennett & Co. Ltd., Madras.

The Mayoral badge and chain which is of 18 carat gold was specially manufactured for the Mayor and Corporation of Madras. It is highly chased thoughtout, the chain consisting alternately of the Corporation monogram and shield bearing the City Coat of Arms.

"The top plaque is beautifully enamelled with a picture of Ripon Buildings, and surrounded by a wreath of thistle."

Muthiah Chettiar retired from the Membership of the Corporation Council on 15th June 1934 in the normal course; and it is a tribute to his services to the Corporation of Madras that he was elected again as a member of the Corporation Council on 26.6.1934. Mr. W.W.Ladden, who had been elected Mayor on 7.11.1933 in succession to Muthiah Chettiar, held that office till 5.11.1934 when Kumara Rajah Muthiah Chettiar was elelcted again as Mayor for a full one year term. Thus Muthiah Chettiar served the Corporation as Mayor for two terms.

Muthiah Chettiar took his new office seriously. He had come to love Madras, and he made it his business to go round the city every now and then, its roads, alleys and by-ways, till he came to know it like the palm of his own hand. He was familiar with every nook and corner of the city. He came to know the inhabitants, rich and poor, who represented to him the need for such alterations and amenities as they desired.

Mayoralty meant business and that included sanitation and amenties to the city folk. The slums for instance, *cheris* as they are called, were an eyesore to those who had eyes to see. They meant dirt and disease. The city was not unmindful of it. The civic authoirities had been active. The Cochrane Basin settlement was a standing monument of the lively civic conscience of the Corporation. Muthiah Chettiar studied the question in depth and expressed his opinions in a considered speech delivered in 1933 during his Mayoralty :

> "*Slums commonly known as Cheries, the habitations of the poor and thriftless are an unforunate development of urban civilization . Concurrent with the growth of our City with its increasing number of mills, factories and firms, there is a migration of workers from the neighbouring villages who are mainly responsible for the slum problem. The slum population in the City are mainly of the depressed classes and fishermen. The inhabitatnts of the slums are occupying the lowest position economically and socially.*

It is the poverty that does not permit them to live in a decent locality and habitable house. In the city, there are about 180 cheries and they are mostly on private land and others on Government, Corporation or Trust lands. Roughly about two lakhs of people i.e. one third of the population are living in the slums. Of late the slum problem has become one of the most pressing questions and has been attracting the closest and prompt attention of the Corporation, Government and the public. The problem is not confined to this City nor even to this Presidency but it is common throughtout India. I shall like to emphasise morals and premature death owing to so many thousands of our fellowmen being condemned to exist in accommodation that in many cases has been delcared to be unfit for human habitation. The loss of public health, the commands of humanity and of true statesmanship all proclaim the same need that slums must be either abolished or improved.

As I said, the abolition of slums is chiefly a problem of providing better houses to the working class people. The Corporation of Madras has been seriously tackling the question of clearing the slums and improving the cheries. The Cochrane Basin settlement built by the Corporation is a standing monument to the efforts of the Corporation and public spirited officials. Even as early as 1930, the Corporation of Madras had successfully undertaken housing schemes for the poor. About 783 tenements at a cost of Rs. 4 lakhs were built and budgèt provisions are made for slum improvements every year and I am glad to say that the Government has been very sympathetically granting financial aid, the most essential requisite for the solution of the problem. This year too about Rs.3 lakhs has been provided for slum improvement.

Apart from the Corporation and Government Aid, public sympathy, co-operation and service are necessary for the successful and easy solution of this big problem. From what I

see and gather from your report I am greatly pleased to state that this Odder Palayam Cheri is an example of very fruitful public service. The programme of work sketched in the report is indeed very laudable. The provision of this community shed to serve as a reading room and library for the inhabitants here satisfies an urgent want. It is something corresponding in a smaller scale to a town hall or a club in a City. The habit of meeting in the shed after the day's hard work will be greatly conducive to the healthier development of the inhabitants who generully resort to toddy shops in the evening. The members of the youth league, Mr. Sankaranarayana Iyer, Srimathi Visalakshi Ammal, and Bakeerathi Ammal deserve our warmest congratulations for the selfless work they have done for this cheri. I wish their endeavours will have adequate encouragement and be crowned with greater success. I take this opportunity of assuring the help of the Corporation.

The magnitude of the problem cannot be exaggerated. It implies decent housing, sanitation, education proper lighting, credit facilities, temperance, and above all, the eradication of slum mentality among the slum population. It involves adequate money, abundant energy and persistent devotion to work. The fight against the slums is bound to be protracted and long. However, with better financial conditions, spread of education, growth of public opinion for the amelioration of the depressed classes, and growing number of voluntary associations like the Madras Sanitary Welfare League, Youth League and Triplicane Sociological Brotherhood and with an ever increasing band of public and social workers, I hope ere long our City will be rid of the slums."

During the two spells of his Mayoralty, Muthiah Chettiar spent a good deal of his time, energy and attention on the problems of elementary education of the children of the poorer sections, particularly Muslims, extending the scope of educatinal facilities in different areas of the City, augmented the accommodation,

the funds available with the Government. But I am sure I am voicing forth the opinion of the citizens of Madras when I appeal to the Government to continue to view this noble object in a sympathetic manner and enable the Housing Schemes to be completed within a short time.

One recent event of considerable significance, which I had thought, I would be the first to mention on this occasion, but which has been rightly anticipated by the Sheriff, is the election to the Mayoral Chair for the first time of a non-official gentleman of the European community. It is but right that the European community which has done so much for our country should have its due share of civic honours. I believe this is a symbol of a beter understanding between the Indian and the European residents of Madras and I am sure that it is a happy augury for the future when the two great communities will work in harmony and evolve a greater and happier India.

That Madras should become an even more beautiful city is the wish and desire of all. What has been achieved so far encourages us in the belief that the coming years will see the growth of the city in a multiplicity of ways. I am proud of the city, and feel that all of us could be justifiably proud of our city. There can be no gain saying that pride in one's own city is a noble virtue. 'May the City of Madras grow from more to more, and be the seat of health and happiness' is, I am sure, the sincere wish and earnest prayer of all of us.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have now great pleasure in asking you to drink to the happiness and prosperity of our good old city of Madras."

Appreciation of Kumara Rajah Muthiah Chettiar's work as Mayor of Madras was not confined to Madras alone. The Corporation of Calcutta presented an Address of Welcome to him soon after his installation as Mayor.

A special committee was formed at the meeting of the Council on 12th August 1933 with the Kumara Rajah as its Chairman, to study and report to the Corporation with the following terms of reference :

1. to enquire into the housing conditions in the City of Madras with reference to overcrowding, slum clearance and the housing of the poorer classes, and,

2. to evolve a comprehensive housing policy for the City and report what legislation or administrative action was, in the opinion of the Committee, necessary to remedy the existing defects.

The Committee submitted its report on 9th October 1934 and after its acceptance by the Council, the Government was moved for financial aid to the tune of Rs.20 lakhs to implement the scheme.

Kumara Rajah took the bold step of setting up a Radio Station, against many odds, in the Madras Corporation.

In order to derive the fullest advantage from his intimate knowledge and experience of procedures and conventions in Municipal administration, the Madras Corporation Council appointed Muthiah Chettiar in 1934 as a member of the Committee to review the working of the Madras City Municipal Act. Later he constituted the City Improvement Trust and was associated with its functioning for ten years. Earlier, he had served as the Chairman of the Standing Committee (Taxation and Finance) for the year 1933-34.

At their meeting on 31st October, 1933, "The Corproation Council placed on record its great appreciation of the services of Kumara Rajah M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad MLC and of the able manner in which he has discharged his high duties as the Mayor of Madras."

When his second term as Mayor was coming to a close, the Council passed the following resolution at its meeting on 30.10.1935 :

The Council placed on record its appreciation of the valuable and distinguished services of Kumara Rajah M.A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad as Mayor of Madras for a second term.

A meed of praise richly merited.

Even today, a large-size oil-colour portrait of Kumara Rajah M.A. Muthiah Chettiar adorns the walls of the Corporation office in Ripon Buildings - a constant reminder of his signal services to the Madras Corporation as its First Mayor.

What Muthiah Chettiar would have liked most, what he would have given anything for, was the continued administration of the City of Madras, in which capacity he would have laboured to the utmost to provide every conceivable amenity and make it a City Beautiful. An office like the Mayor's cannot be any one man's monopoly. But whoever the Mayor he can do an excellent job of work during his term of office and hand on the tradition to subsequent Mayors. That Muthiah Chettiar did. He had had his innings and the Mayoral office which M.A. Muthiah Chettiar held for two terms remained a gracious memory all his life.

An extract from chapter 10 of Thiru V. Nagarajan's book : "Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar - A Biography" pulished by Annamalai University on the occsion of its Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 1989.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA

KUMARARAJA M.A. MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD, M.L.C.
Mayor of Madras

On behalf of the Aldermen and Councillors of the Corporation of Calcutta, allow me to offer you a most cordial welcome to this City.

It is our mutual and primary aim to help the development of Local Self-Government and to create in our people a capacity to manage their own affairs satisfactorily with a view to enable them to reap a rich harvest of the many golden amenities of modern civic life. It is also our common and mutual endeavour to see that Municipal government may reach that high water-mark of efficiency and thoroughness in this country which will ultimately constitute the noblest heritage of our Nation. As such, we sincerely welcome the spirit of greater co-operation and better understanding between Municipalities in India, and we have no manner of doubt that you, as the Civic Head of Madras, will substantially help in the pursuit of this ideal.

Your recent election as Mayor of Madras—a city where the first attempt in Municipal Government was made under Biritsh rule—clearly testifies to the great confidence reposed in you by the citizens of Madras and we feel sure that, in dealing with the many urgent problems of a large autonomous municipal institution like the Corporation of Madras, they will find in you a worthy guide and a trusted friend. We sincerely wish you success in your important and difficult work.

NALINI RANJAN SARCAR
Mayor of Calcutta

CALCUTTA
26th March, 1935

CORPORATION OF MADRAS

Civic Address of Welcome

Dr. RAJAH SIR M.A. MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD, Kt., B.A., D.Litt., M.L.C.
(First Worshipful Mayor of Madras)

Dear Rajah Saheb,

We, the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and Councillors of the Corporation of Madras, have great pleasure in extending to you, the Rajah of Chettinad and Pro-Chancellor of the Annamalai University, our most cordial welcome and felicitation on the occasion of your completion of sixty fruitful years of beneficence.

We deem it our pleasant duty, privilege and honour to present this Civic Address on the occasion of your *shashtiabdapurthi (Mani Vizha)* celebrations, as the First Worshipful Mayor of Madras and also in recognition of the great services rendered by your goodself in the civic, educational and other public fields. You are the illustrious eldest son of your illustrious father, Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar, Rajah of Chettinad, of revered memory, the great Founder of the Annamalai University and the Tamil Isai Sangam, whose other two illustrious sons, Thiru R. Ramanathan Chettiar, M.P. and Thiru M.A. Chidambaram Chettiar, have also adorned our Premier Corporation of Madras as Mayors following the high traditions laid down by their eldest brother, and who are playing a pre-eminent part in the economic and industrial development of our State.

The first elected President was Sir P. Theagaraya Chetty, of revered memory, and you were the last elected President of the Corporation of Madras for 1932-33 following the high traditions laid down by him. It is at your instance, a bill was passed on 26/1/33 to amend the Madras City Municipal Act at the Madras Legislative Council so as to create the high office of the Mayor, a dignity which was long overdue. The creation anew of the Mayor

of Madras was a very important measure because it has reinvested the oldest Municipal Corporation in India with its prior dignity as well as a special status in consonance with the position of this ancient city of Madras in India. The special ceremony of investing you, the then President, with the new dignity of Mayor was held on 7-3-1933 with great pomp. On that day you became the First Mayor of Madras, an unique honour which one might well be proud of. The grand and massive Mayoral Chair presented by your goodself as the First mayor serves still the seat of the Mayor. Since then the Mayor has always been preceded by the mace-bearer, carrying the silver mace and ushered in by the Secretary when he enters the Council Chamber, all the members standing till he occupies the Chair, after bowing to all sides of the House. The robe worn by the Mayor of Madras is almost a replica of that worn by the Lord Mayor of London, but made to suit the conditions of our country. A gold chain with a badge is worn by the Mayor on special and ceremonial occasions. These dignities attaching to the Mayor have greatly enhanced the social significance of high office and the picturesqueness of the ceremonial function of the Corporation. Due to your popularity and the respect you commanded from the Councillors of the Corporation of Madras, you were for the second time elected Mayor of Madras for 1934-35. You had a large part, as Chairman of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, in shaping the amending Act of 1936, by which major changes were made in the Madras City Municipal Act and whereby for the first time the office of the Deputy Mayor was created. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru M. Bhaktavatsalam, was the First Deputy Mayor of Madras.

You entered public life in 1930 and in the same year you were elected to the Madras Corporation Council and to the Madras Legislative Council by the Southern Indian Chamber of Commerce. You have been a legislator since then. The Municipal Corporation is the best training ground for leadership and public service. As in the case of most of the stalwarts in public life, your

life does contain a golden chapter on the part you played in the civic affairs. You adorned the Madras Cabinet in 1936-37 as a Minister-in-charge of Education, Medical, Public Health and Excise Duty. You were also the Leader of the Opposition during the first Congress Ministry under Thiru Rajaji in 1937 and during this time, you made a mark as a fearless and fair critic with balanced views, worthy of a constitutional parliamentarian. You are a fluent speaker in English. You are a great educationist of experience and vision and a patron of Tamil, Arts, Literature and Culture. The continuing fostering care and attention you bestow on the Annamalai University and the Tamil Isai Sangam founded by your revered father shows the keen interest you evince in the spread of higher education and the development of Tamil arts, literature, culture and histrionic talents. The valuable services rendered by your goodself for the development of industries, commerce and banking are so well known that it is needless for us to enumerate them. The Indian Bank in Madras owes a great deal to you for its sound growth. You have also been connected with the Imperial Bank of India, now the State Bank of India, and the various Chambers of Commerce including the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries of which you were for some time President. You have been a friend, philosopher and guide in all matters concerning education, banking and commerce. You are a politician of balanced views without aligning yourself to any "isms". Well-deserved and glowing encomiums were paid to you on the occasion of your *mani vizha* celebrations, referring to your qualities of a sincere friend and the great part played by you in varied fields of public activities. On that occasion you were also kind enough to announce munificent donations to various educational institutions for which the public of our State are greatly indebted to your goodself.

You still evince great and keen interest in the affairs of the civic administration. Since 1936 great many changes were made in the City Municipal Act. On 1-4-1946, the suburban areas of

Saidapet, Sembium, Aminjikarai, etc., were included within the city limits and the extent of the city now is 49.74 sq.miles as against the original area of 29.40 sq.miles. The Corporation Administration has now been decentralised into 2 District and 10 Circle Offices with a view to enable the citizens to have close and immediate contact with the administration for complying with their civic requirements on the spot. The City of Madras is expanding enormously in all directions and industries have grown up in the outskirts of our city. Though the expansion of the City is a good sign of prosperity it adds to our problems and financial difficulties. With the limited resources at our command within the ambit of our Corporation Act, we are catering to the needs of all our citizens in all parts of our city to the maximum extent possible. You know that the Corporation of this Garden City of Madras is the oldest one in our country proud of its Marina, Stadia, Ashok-Vihar, play-fields and garden bungalows and also very ancient medical, educational and other public institutions. We are now providing free Midday Meals to 47,000 poor children studying in our Corporation Schools and we are running now 315 Elementary and Higher Elementary Schools. From 2 High Schools which the Corporation was manging in 1946, it has increased to 16 High Schools now and it is proposed to upgrade many Higher Elementary Schools into High Schools for Boys and Girls. With the Government grants we expect to afford facilities for play-grounds and recreational activities of our school children and the public. The Corporation has a Printing Press of its own now. With a view to enable lower middle class and poor people to celebrate marriages and other festive functions at a low cost, the Corporation has built up Community Halls at 7 places. Our problems are multiplying now with added responsibility thrown on us by the ever-growing population. Lack of adequate finance and of water resources stands in the way of achieving our objective of the Ideal City Beautiful. We seek your good offices and co-operation in making our City Beautiful.

In conclusion, we thank you, Sir, for having kindly consented to receive this Civic Address and we wish that both your Rajah Saheb and Rani Lady Meyyammai Achi, who has been kind enough to grace the occasion with her presence here, may be endowed with long life, health and happiness to work for the good of our country whose interest you have so much at heart.

We remain, Sir,

Your Fellow Servants of the Motherland,

THE MAYOR, THE DEPUTY MAYOR AND
COUNCILLORS OF
THE CORPORATION OF MADRAS

MADRAS
16th August 1965.

Extract from the brochure published by the Government of India at the time of releasing the postal cancellation in honour of Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar on 21—12—1987

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar was born on 5th August 1905, son of Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar a distinguished member of the Nattukkottai Nagarathar community. He studied mostly in Madras, graduating from the Presidency College in 1922. He then went to Burma on his family's business, acquiring expertise in banking.

He became a member of Madras Legislative Council, representing the South Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry with which he was associated for 50 years, and was elected its President in 1941. He was appointed member of the Provincial Banking Enquiry Commission in 1929 and of the Madras Provincial Franchise Enquiry Committee (1931). In 1929, he became a member of the Corporation of Madras and was elected Mayor in 1933 and 1934. In 1943 he was elected president of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He was associated with the Imperial Bank of India (now the State Bank of India) and the Indian Bank.

Interest in education was part of the family heritage. He was associated with his father in making Sri Minakshi College, Chidamabram the nucleus of a university. While purusing his political career as Chief Whip and Legislative Assembly Chairman of the Justice Party, he retained his interest in education. In 1936 he was appointed Minister-in-charge of Education, Public Health and Excise, and was also the Pro-Chancellor of Madras University for over a year. He remained on the Board of Management of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, for some years.

In 1948 he became Pro-Chancellor of Annamalai University which expanded to include the faculties of Education, Fine Arts, Culture, Law and Medicine. Two UGC Centres of Advanced Study in Marine Biology and Linguistics came into being. The Engineering and Technology Department

developed into a Post-Graduate Centre. The Muthiah Polytechnic, Annamalainagar, and the Annamalai Polytechnic, Chettinad, were established.

He was interested in the study of Tamil language and literature, Tamil music and culture. His services to the cause of Tamil earned him the title of 'Tamil Isai Kavalar'.

He earned the reputation of being a sensitive Parliamentarian, impartial and balanced, as a leader of the opposition in 1939 and when he held charge of Local Administration and Hindu Religious Endowments. He was knighted in 1941. In 1946 he was elected member of the Constituent Assembly at New Delhi.

In the world of business he was an important figure, holding such positions as Chairman of Chettinad Cement Corporation Ltd., Madras, Madura Coats Ltd., Consolidated Coffee Ltd., Coorg, and Coonoor Tea Estate, Coonoor, among others.

He passed away on 12th May, 1984 in Madras, leaving an impressive record of interests and achievements.

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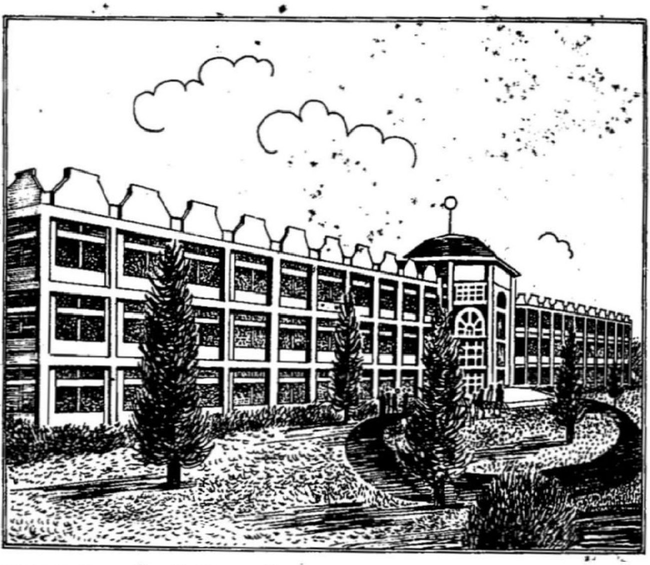
First Day Cover released by the Postal Department on 21—12—1987

प्रथम दिवस आवरण FIRST DAY COVER

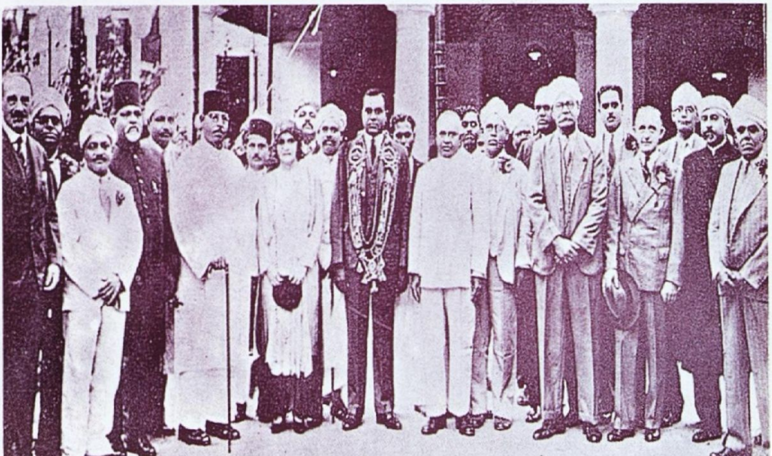


डा० राजा सर मुत्तैया चेट्टियार इन्स्टिट्यूट
ऑव मेडिकल साइन्सेज़, चिदम्बरम
DR. RAJAH SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR INSTITUTE
OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, CHIDAMBARAM

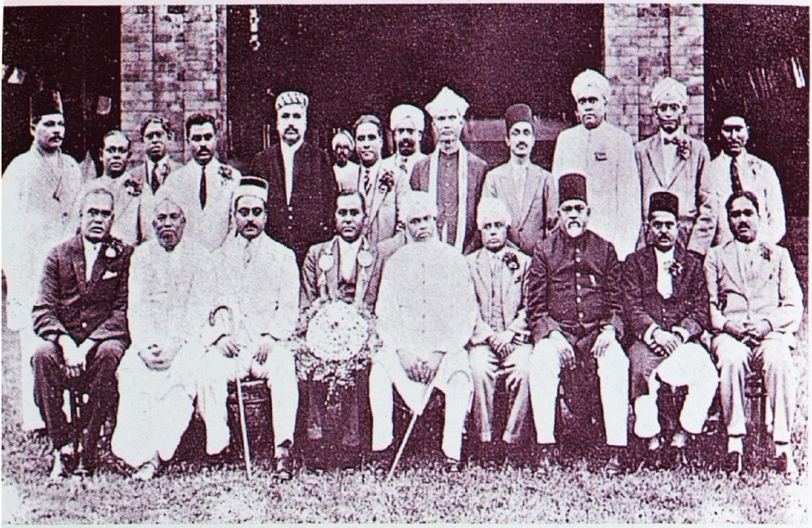
Crest of the Rajah of Chettinad

Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar as the First Mayor of Madras 1932-33

Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar as the First Mayor of Madras
with Kumararani Meyyammai Achi



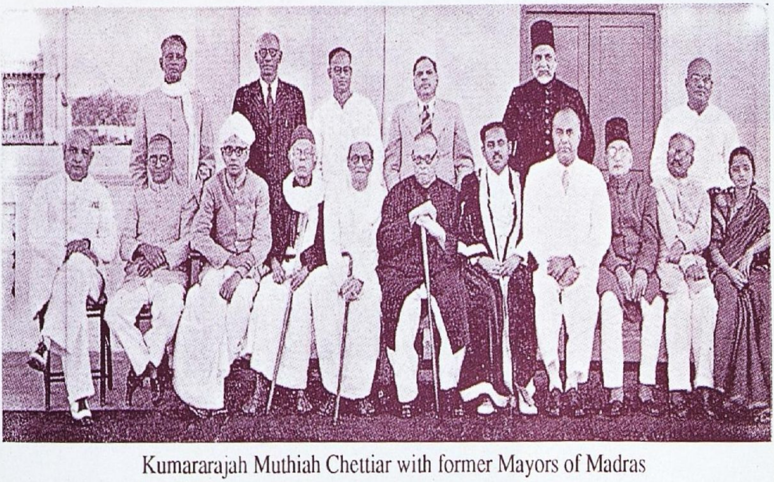
Reception to Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar by the Citizens
of Madras in 1932 on his election as Mayor



Reception by South India Chamber of Commerce to Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar on his election as Mayor

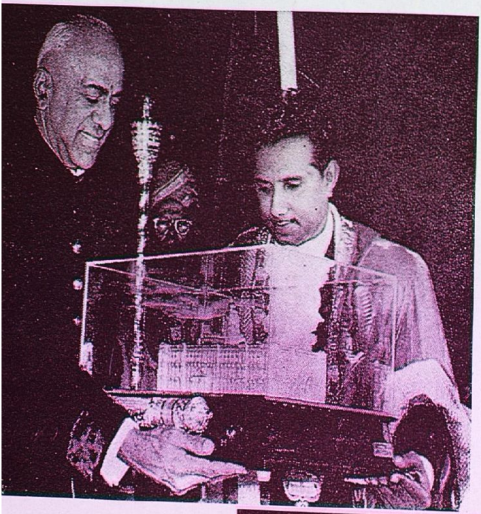
Reception by the Karaikudi Municipality to Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar on his election as Mayor

Mayor, Commissioner & Councillors of the Corporation of Madras with Their Excellencies Sir George & Lady Beatrix Stanley at the Garden Party hosted by Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar, as Mayor of Madras, on the 21st October 1933.

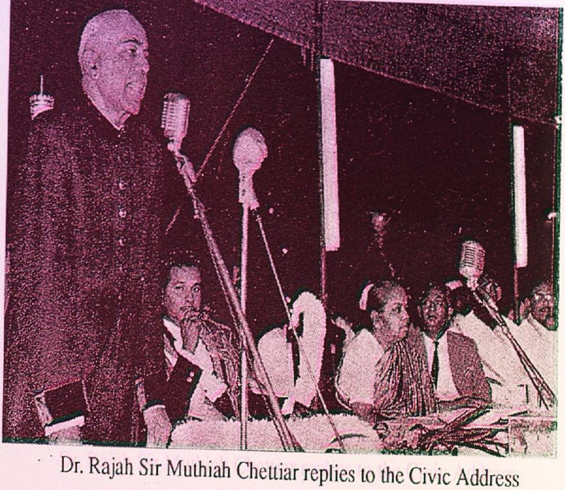


Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar with former Mayors of Madras

Civic Address & Reception given to Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar by the Corporation of Madras — Thiru C. Chittibabu, Mayor of Madras, reads the Civic Address — 1965



Thiru C. Chittibabu, Mayor of Madras, presents the Civic Address in Casket



Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar replies to the Civic Address

Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar with his sons

Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar and his Mayor Brothers —
Thiru R.Ramanathan Chettiar and Thiru M.A.Chidambaram Chettiar

Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar as Minister for Education, Health and Local Administration, Madras State, 1936-37

Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar as Pro-Chancellor of
Madras University, 1936-37

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar as Pro-Chancellor
of Annamalai University, 1948-84

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar

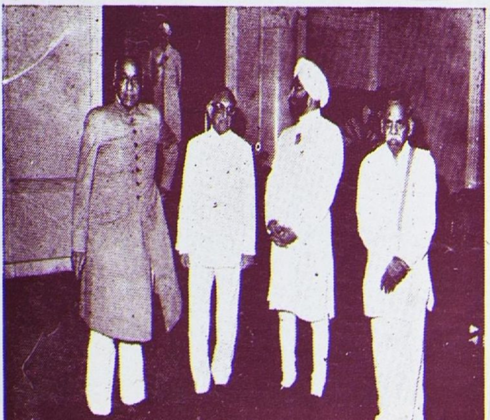
with former Presidents of the Nation

With Dr. Rajendra Prasad

With Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

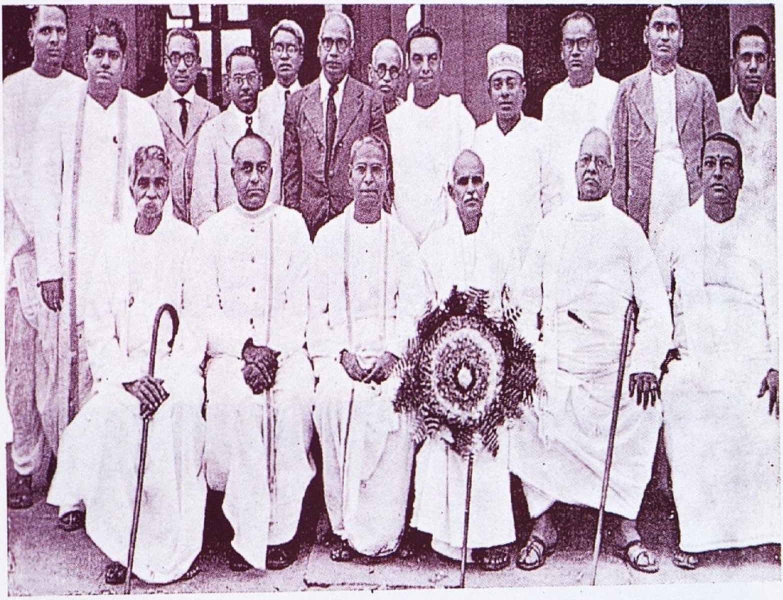
With Dr. Zakir Hussain

With Dr. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy



With Shri Giani Zail Singh

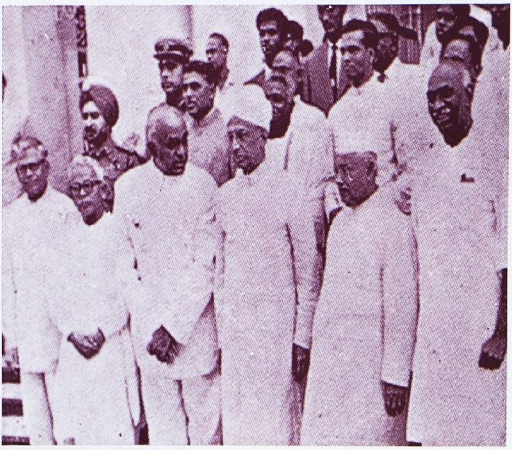
Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar with former Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu



With Thiru O.P. Ramaswami Reddiar

With Thiru P.S. Kumaraswamy Raja

With Thiru C. Rajagopalachari



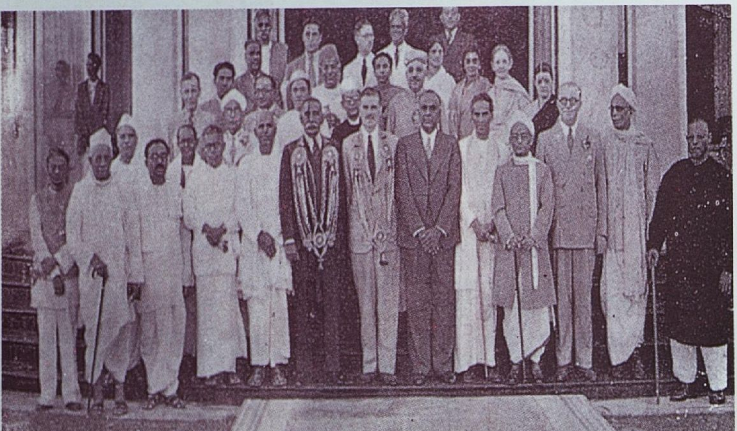
With Thiru K. Kamaraj & Thiru M. Bakthavatsalam

With Thiru C.N. Annadurai

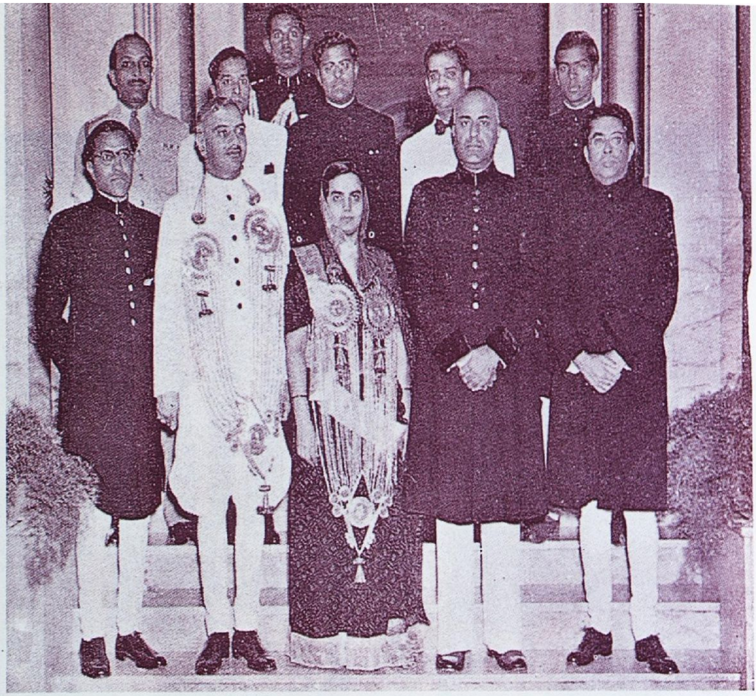
With Thiru M. Karunanidhi

With Thiru M.G. Ramachandran

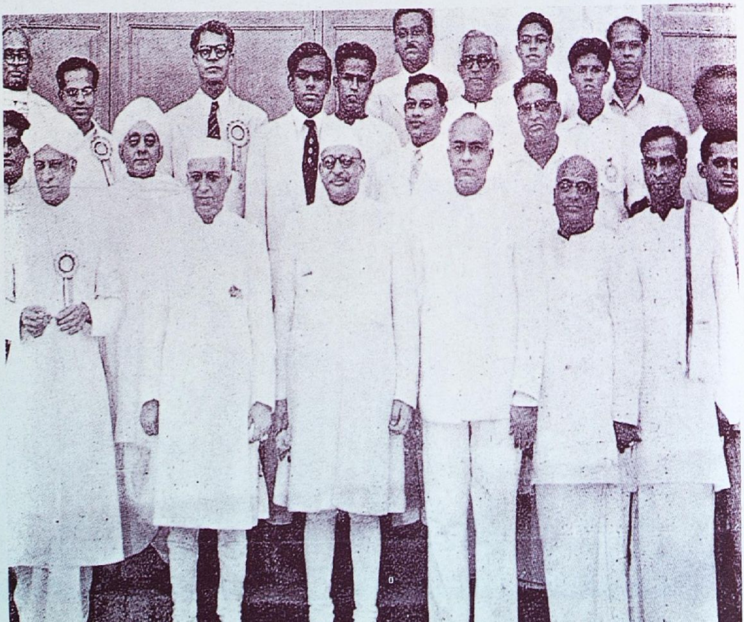
Rajah Sir as a member of the Constituent Assembly, with
with K. Kamaraj, Thiru M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar & Prof. N.G. Ranga



Rajah Sir with Sir Stephen Senanayeke, Prime Minister of Ceylon,
Sir Archibald Nye, Governor of Madras and Ministers of Madras

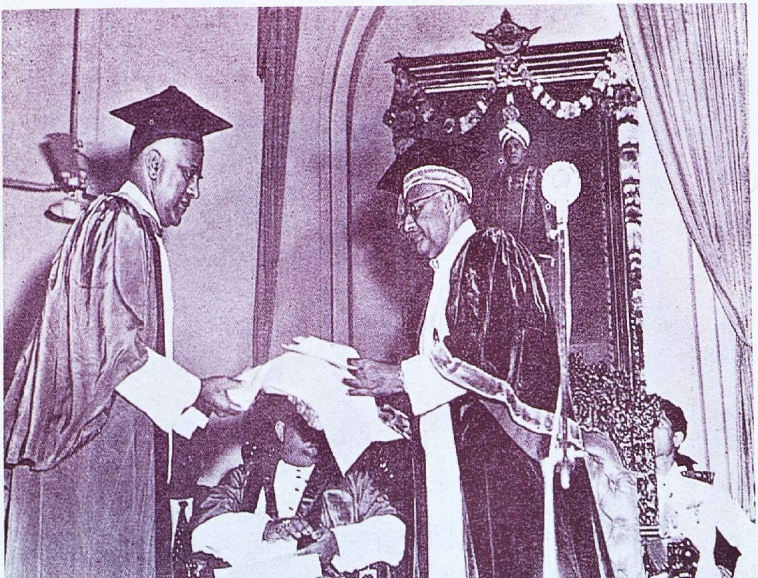


Rajah Sir with H.H. The Maharaja of Bhavanagar,
Governor of Madras and H.H. The Maharani



Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru,
Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Sir Prakasa, Sir C.P. Ramaswami Iyer and Others

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar with Dr. Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chettiar, Sir M. Viswesvarayya and Thiru G.D. Naidu at the 'Shastiabdapoorthi' of Dr. Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chettiar

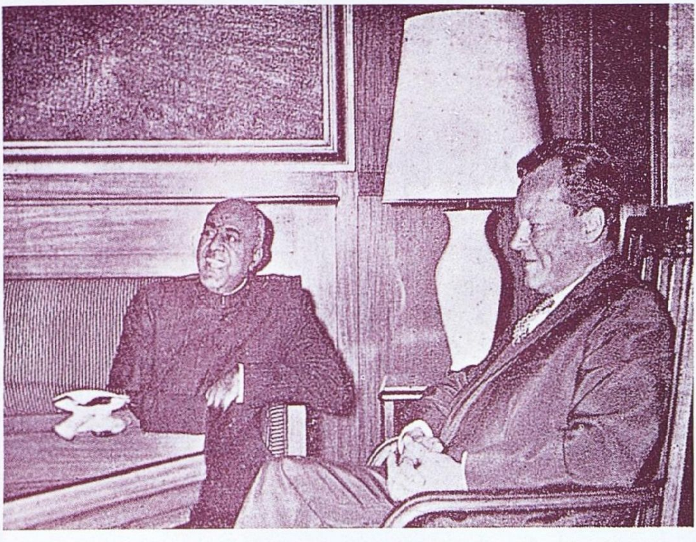


Dr. Rajah Sir receiving the Degree of D.Litt. at the Silver Jubilee Convocation - "honoris causa" - 1955

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar with Earl Attlee, former Prime Minister of U.K., 1956

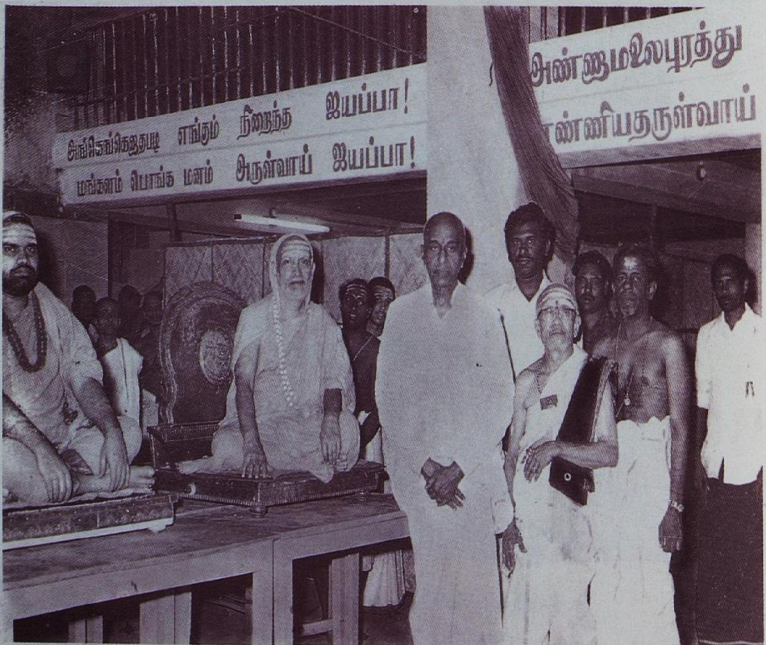
Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar with Periyar E.V. Ramaswami

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar and Rani Meyyammai Achi with His Holiness Pope John, 1961



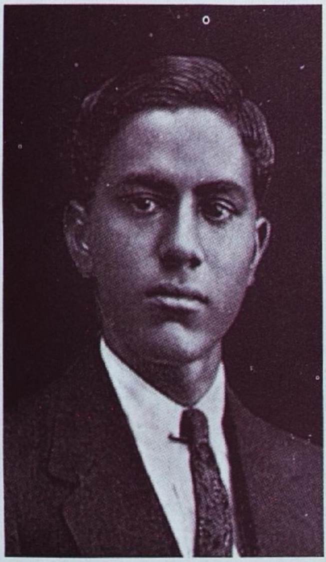
Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar with Mr. Willy Brandt, Governing Mayor, West Berlin, 1961

Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar with Sringeri Sankaracharya Swamigal



Dr. Rajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar with his son
Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy, the then President of
Indian Hockey Federation on the latter's spectacular
victory of the Hockey World Cup at Kualalampur

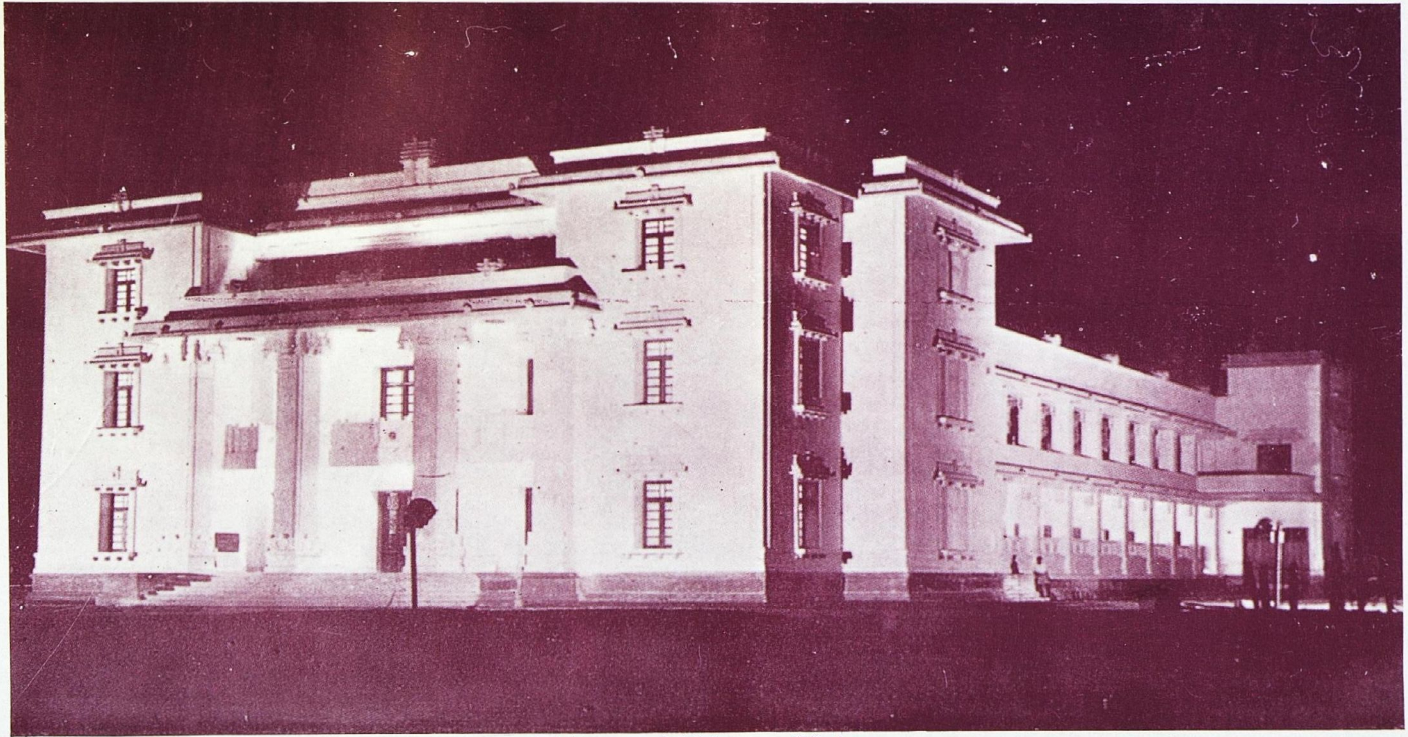
Kumararajah in his early days



Dr. Rajah Sir's Shastiabdapoorthi

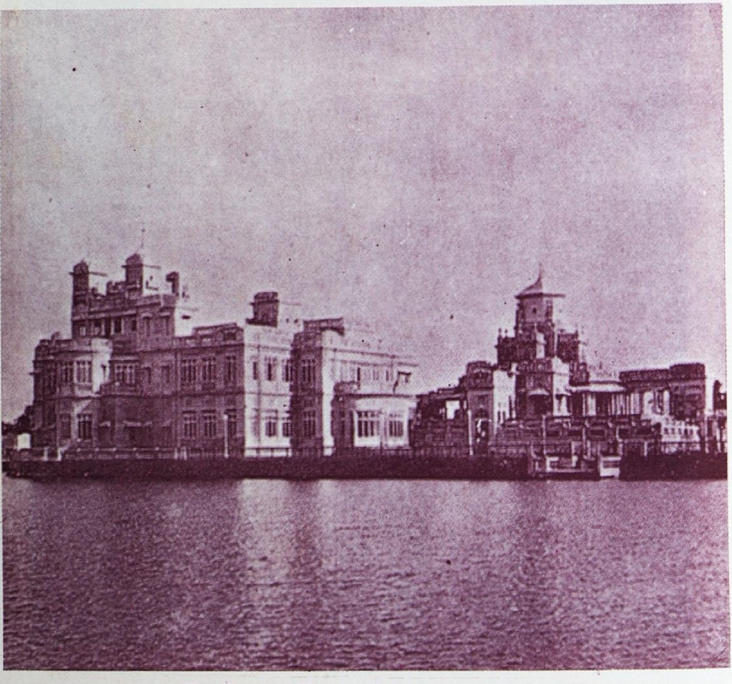
Mangalya Dharanam
at the Shastiabdhapoorthi

Rajah Muthiah Manram, Madurai



Rajah Annamalai Manram, Madras

The Palace of Chettinad at Kanadukathan



The Chettinad House at Rajah Annamalaipuram

Dr. RAJAH SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR

A CHRONOLOGY

1905 August 5 : Born at Chettinad (Pallathur) to Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar and Rani Lady Seethai Achi. (Eldest of the three sons).

1915 Early education at the Presentation Convent, Vepery, the Ewart School and the Culavala Ramanujam Chetty High School, Madras.

1917 Married his cousin Meyyammai Achi.

1919 Studied at St. Joseph High School, Tiruchirappalli.

1922 Joined B.A. at Presidency College. Took History, Economics and Politics as his subjects.

1924 Took his B.A. Degree.

1925 Went to Burma where his family had many business interests and learnt the intricacies of the indigenous system of banking.

1928 Became Director, Indian Bank (1928-1932). Visited Ceylon.

1929 Appointed member of the Provincial Banking Enquiry Commission.

Nominated as a member of the Madras Local Body (Municipality).

Trustee of the Pachaiyappa's Board (served as Chairman and as Trustee upto 1963).

Kumara Rajah M.A.M. Muthiah was born.

Director, Deccan Sugar Co.

Donation of Rs.25 lakhs by his father Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar from their family fund along with 700 acres of land, Seven Colleges for establishing the Annamalai University.

1930 Joined the Justice Party. Served as Chairman and Chief of the Justice Party between 1930-36. Unanimously elected as representative of the South India Chamber of Commerce to Madras Corporation.

1930 Member, Madras Legislative Council.

1931 M.A.M. Ramaswamy was born.

Chief Whip of the Justice Party.

Member, Franchise Enquiry Committee (urged the Government to give Adult Franchise immediately).

1932 President of the Madras Corporation. Director, Imperial Bank of India (1932-36).

1933 Elected First Mayor of Madras Corporation. (Donated the Mayoral Chair, the Mayoral Gold Chain and Mayoral Gown and Mace to the Council).

1934 Reelected Mayor of Madras Corporation. (It was during this period the principle of Rotation by Caste was introduced.)

1935 Honoured by the Corporation of Calcutta by being presented with an address of welcome.

1936 Minister in the Justice Party. Minister in-charge of Education, Medical Relief, Public Health and Excise (Composite Madras Presidency).

Pro-Chancellor of Madras University. (Father-Pro-Chancellor, Annamalai University — A rare co-incidence).

1937 Opposed the study of Hindi as a compulsory subject in schools and colleges.

1938 Led a long procession of the Anti-Hindi movement and submitted a memorandum to the Government.

1939 Leader of the Opposition Party during the Congress Ministry headed by Sri C. Rajagopalachari. Minister in the new Government (Care-taker) in-charge of Local Administration and Hindu Religious Endowment.

1940 President of the South Indian Chamber, Madras.

Member of the Syndicate, University of Madras (1940-46).

1941 President, Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Member of the Defence Council presided by the Viceroy.

Knighthood given on the King's birthday by the British Empire.

1942 Reelected President, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (continued upto 1944).

President, Board of Management, Pachaiyappa's College (under his Presidentship the Centenary of the Pachaiyappa's College was celebrated).

1946 Member of the Constitutent Assembly. (Continued upto 1950).

1948 Beloved father Dr. Sir Rajah Annamalai Chettiar passed away (at the age of 67).

Pro-Chancellor of Annamalai University.

Director, Harvey Mills.

1948 President, Nattukkottai Nagarathar Association.

1949 9th February : Kumara Rajah's Marriage.

1951 6th September : Marriage of Thiru M.A.M. Ramaswamy.

1952 Elected M.L.A. from the Tirupattur Constitutency as an independent candidate.

1953 Completed the construction of the Annamalai Manram, Madras.

1955 9th February : Annamalai University Silver Jubilee Celebration. Annamalai University conferred the Degree of Doctor of Letters.

Trustee, City Improvement Trust, (1955-63).

Patron, Gandhinagar Education Society.

Founding of Rani Meyyammai High School, Madras.

1956 Starting of the Annamalai Polytechnic.

1957 Elected M.L.A. from Karaikkudi Constituency.

1958 Vice-President, Tamil Isai Sangam, Madras.

1959 Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth II, Duke of Edinburgh were entertained at Chettinad House, Madras.

1960 Member, Technical Education Committee, New Delhi.

Founded Girls High School at Rajah Annamalaipuram.

Chairman, Madura Mills.

Member, Board of Management, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (continued upto 1965).

1961 Visit of Her Excellency Queen Elizabeth II of England to India. Rajah Saheb and Rani Saheb were granted special audience by the Queen.

1962 Visit to Western countries - Japan, Ceylon and Malaya.

Gets audience with Holy Father Pope John.

1963 Governor, Indian Institute of Technology.

Director, Binny & Co.

Member, Madras Legislative Council. (Champion of the usefulness of the Second Chamber).

1965 Family celebrated Sixtieth Birthday at Chettinad.

August 1 : Madras Corporation presented a Civic Address.

August 4 : Announces endowments totalling Rs.9 lakhs.

August 30 : Madura Municipal Council presented a Civic Address.

September 1 : Tiruchirapalli Municipal Council presented a Civic Address.

1970 Beloved wife Meyyammai Achi passed away.

1973 Awarded Title of Padma Bhushan by Government of India.

1974 Started Tamil Isai Sangam, Madurai.

August 9th : Inauguration of Tamil, Sanskrit and other languages Institute. Rajah Sir donated 6 grounds and a building at Marshalls Road, Egmore, Madras.

1979 In recognition of his contributions to the growth of Tamil Isai and encouragement of Tamil Musicians the title of "Tamil Isai Kavalar" was conferred on him by the Honourable Chief Minister Thiru M.G. Ramachandran. Celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Annamalai University.

Faculty of Medicine and Dental inaugurated at Annamalai University.

1980 Nominated to the T.N. Legislative Council by the Governor.

1982 World University honoured him with the Degree of Doctor of Letters.

1983 21st January : Adoption of M.A.M.M. Annamalai to the First Son Kumara Rajah M.A.M. Muthiah Chettiar.

20th September : The Madras University honoured him by conferring the Degree of Doctor of Letters. (Honoris causa) during the Post-Centenary Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the University. (University of Madras, honoured Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar also with the Degree of LLD in 1932).

The Tamil Nadu Academy of Poets conferred the Title "Thamizh Sanrour".

November 23 : Tamil Nadu Legislative Council valedictory reference to Thiru Muthiah Chettiar.

(His term ended on 30th December 1983).

1984 Passed away on 12th May at the age of seventy-nine.

13th May : Thiru Muthiah Chettiar was cremated at the Mylapore crematorium. Vice-Chancellor, members of the Syndicate, teaching and non-teaching staff and research scholars and students of the Annamalai University paid their homages to Dr. Muthiah Chettiar.

May 15th : At the Condolence Meeting for Thiru Muthiah Chettiar organised by the Nagarathar Foundation, Thiru M.A.M. Ramaswamy announced Rs.25,000/- for the creation of an endowment to award scholarships to the students of Nagarathar Community seeking admission to professional colleges.

May 27 : Condolence Meeting organised by the Mylapore Academy and a dozen other organizations.

June 16 : Coondolence Meeting convened by Sheriff of Madras at the Kalaivanar Arangam. Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and others spoke. Chief Minister Dr. M.G. Ramachandran announces installation of Thiru Muthiah Chettiar Statue in the City Corporation Council.

October 8 : Madras Legislative Assembly passed a condolence resolution.

1985 August 22 : Posthumous Rotary Award for Thiru Muthiah Chettiar.

1987 December 21 : Release of Postal Stamp by the Government of India in honour of Sir Muthiah Chettiar.

Excerpts from "Corporation Chronicle", 1955, an official organ of the Corporation of Madras

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LAST PRESIDENT AND FIRST MAYOR OF MADRAS

Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad, Rajah Sir, Muthiah Annamalai, B.A., M.L.A., son of Hon'ble Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar of Chettinad, by his wife Seethai Achi (Rani Lady Annamalai Chettiar) daughter of Palaniappa Chettiar; born: 1905; Married: Meyyammai Achi (Rani Lady Muthiah Chettiar), daughter of Ramaswamy Chettiar: Sons: Kumara Rajah M.A.M. Muthiah Chettiar, born: 1929: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar, born: 1931; Graduated from the Presidency College, Madras, 1924; Member, Madras Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee, 1929, Councillor, Corporation of Madras, Member, Madras Legislative Council; elected unanimously by the Southern India Chamber of Commerce Constituency (1930-37), Chief Whip and Chairman of the Justice Party; Member, Economic Depression Enquiry Committee (1931); Last President, Madras City Corporation Council, elected unanimously in November 1932; FIRST MAYOR OF MADRAS, February 1933; Again Mayor of Madras, elected unanimously in November 1934 for 1934-35; Was Vice-President of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce in 1934 and 1935; Was a Director of the Indian Bank Ltd., The Madras Telephone Company Ltd., Madras; Minister of Education & Public Health, Government of Madras and Pro-Chancellor, Madras University, 1936-37; Again Minister, Government of Madras for Local Self-Government 1937; Elected Member, Madras Legislative Assembly 1936-1946 and also Leader of the Opposition in the Madras Legislative Assembly 1937-1946; Member of the Syndicate of the Madras University 1940-1946; President Southern India Chamber of Commerce, 1941; Created Knight on 24th June 1941 when he was the Kumara Rajah during his father's time; Trustee, Pachaiyappa's College Board since 1928 and its President in 1942; President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, 1943-44; Member, National Defence Council (India) 1941-46; Elected Member, Madras Legislative Assembly 1946-52; Member, Constituent Assembly of India and Parliament of India 1946-50; Re-elected as Member of Madras Legislative Assembly, 1952;

Pro-Chancellor, Annamalai University, the University founded by his father the Founder-Pro-Chancellor of the Annamalai University; Director, The Imperial Bank of India, and President, Local Board of the Imperial Bank of India, Madras; Director, The Deccan Sugar & Abkhari Co. Ltd., Madras, Mysore Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd., Mysore; A. & F. Harvey Ltd., Madurai; Madura Mills Co. Ltd., Madurai; Pandian Insurance Co. Ltd., Madurai.

President : South India Athletic Association, Madras.

Clubs : Rotary Club of Madras, Madras Gymkhana Club, Madras Boat Club, Madras Race Club, Madras Cricket Club, Cosmopolitan Club, Madras, Bangalore Race Club, Bangalore, The Calcutta Club Ltd., Calcutta.

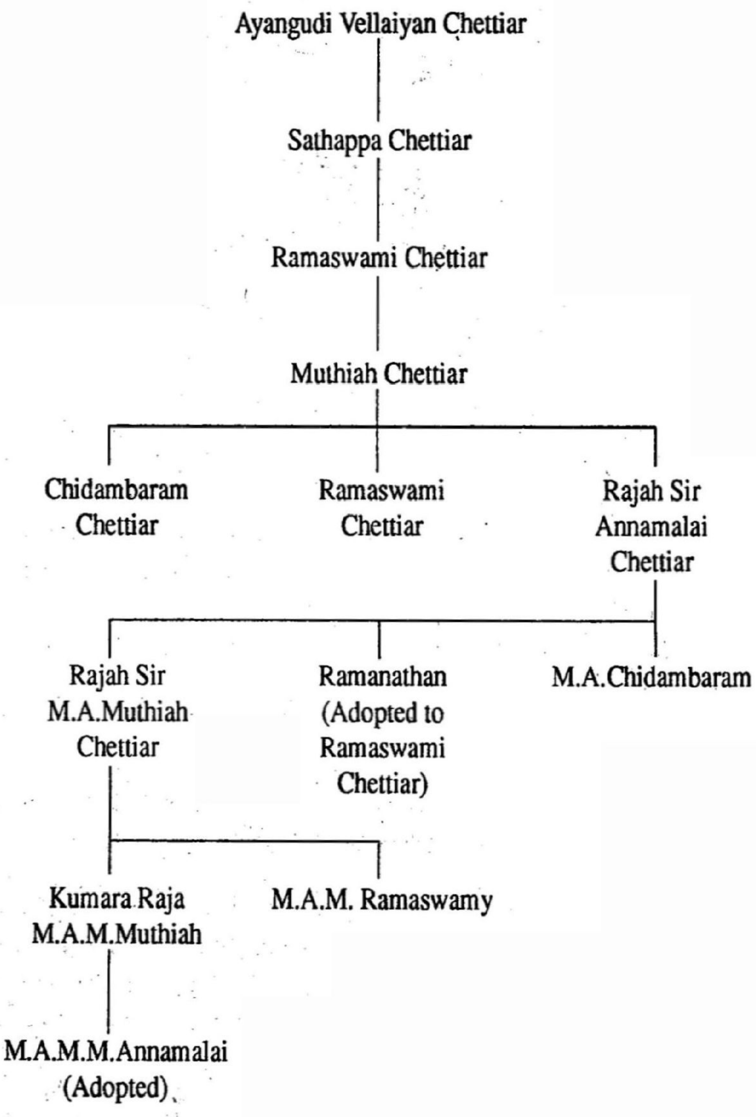
The contribution of the family of the Rajah Chettinad, to the shaping of the Madras City is perhaps unparallelled and unique and the Citizens of Madras must be ever grateful for the signal services rendered by that illustrious family in the cause of civic improvements, to make the City of Madras really beautiful.

It has been an infinite blessing to Madras to have had the advantage of that intuition, that patient wisdom, that sporting enthusiasm, that loving care, to guide its affairs through the manifold changes and chances for the past three decades and it is a circumstance for which all Madras is sincerely grateful that we place our complete faith on those qualities of the family of Chettinad to guide us in the critical times in which we are living. In fact there has been no one more ready to promote civic welfare than the family of Chettinad nor is there any one fully qualified to understand and to adjust the just claims of the Corporation with the stern realities of the actual facts.

May the zeal and the vigorous measures projected for the service of the country which have so eminently distinguished that illustrious family of Rajah of Chettinad be crowned with all success they deserve, is the most fervent wish of every Citizen of Madras on this auspicious Tamil New Year's day!

Courtesy : "The Hindu"

LINEAGE



Ayangudi Vellaiyan Chettiar
Sathappa Chettiar
Ramaswami Chettiar
Muthiah Chettiar
Chidambaram Chettiar
Ramaswami Chettiar
Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar
Rajah Sir M.A.Muthiah Chettiar
Ramanathan (Adopted to Ramaswami Chettiar)
M.A.Chidambaram
Kumara Raja M.A.M.Muthiah
M.A.M. Ramaswamy
M.A.M.M.Annamalai (Adopted)

சென்னை மாநகராட்சி
CORPORATION OF MADRAS